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FOOD ASSISTANCE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES: PROBLEMS, PROSPECTS, AND IDEAS FROM URBAN PROGRAMS

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED SECOND CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

HEARING HELD IN FORT WAYNE, IN, APRIL 5, 1991

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FOOD ASSISTANCE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES: PROBLEMS, PROSPECTS, AND IDEAS FROM URBAN PROGRAMS

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1991

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER,
Washington, D.C.

The Select Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 1:05 p.m., in the Senior Citizen Center dining room, 233 West Main Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana, Hon. Tony P. Hall, presiding.

Members present: Representatives Hall and Long.

Ms. LONG. It is a pleasure for me to welcome all of you here and also to introduce the Chairman of the Select Committee on Hunger, Congressman Tony Hall, from the Third District of Ohio.

He is the Chair of the Hunger Committee and has held that position since September of 1989. He has been and continues to be an outspoken advocate for reducing world hunger. He initiated successful legislation to fight hunger related diseases in developing nations. He is the author of legislation to establish a clearinghouse to promote gleaning as a method of providing the poor with food.

He is a champion of human rights and has devoted his life to working for human rights around the world. In addition to serving in the Peace Corps, he has served in the Ohio state legislature and was elected to the United States House of Representative 13 years ago.

It is a tremendous pleasure for me to welcome Congressman Tony Hall from the Third District of Ohio.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Congresswoman Long. I sincerely appreciate the chance to be here and meet your friends and meet the advocates and the people that we are going to learn so much from today about hunger, especially about hunger in rural America.

We are most appreciative of you sending Jill Long to the Congress not only because of the tremendous work that she does here for you, but also because she is a very important Member of the Hunger Committee—a committee that I hold very dearly. It is a committee that is working to solve some of the problems that are occurring domestically and internationally, and we are very lucky to have her on the committee.

It is really because of Congresswoman Long that the committee and myself and staff are here today. She has urged me and the Select Committee to come here to listen to you, and to find out really what is going on concerning Fort Wayne and rural hunger.

We are most excited about being here. We look forward to listening to all of the people that are going to testify today.

Since it was created in 1984, the Select Committee on Hunger has traveled around the country to investigate hunger and poverty problems. The Hunger Committee has been in inner-city neighborhoods in San Francisco. We have also been to Indian reservations. We have been a variety of places. We have been to middle class suburbs where most people did not even know they had neighbors that were hungry.

Today our mission is to examine the problem of hunger in rural America. We want to know what the problems are here. We want to find out what is working and what is not. We also want to find if what is working in the City of Fort Wayne can work in rural communities.

Last year a report on shopping for food in rural America found that poor nutrition, and the health problems that follow, are common among low-income persons in rural areas. Another report found that poverty rates among working families are much higher in rural than in urban areas. So even with a full-time job, people, as you know, can go hungry.

We are here today because behind these reports are stories of hungry people. We want to hear from the people who work with them and from the people themselves. We want the people of northeast Indiana to tell us why hunger is a problem in their communities.

We hope that what we learn here today in Fort Wayne will give us a better sense of what we need to do in Washington to fight hunger and poverty in rural communities across America.

Jill.

Ms. LONG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First, I thank each of our witnesses for the time and effort required to bring your experience and knowledge before this committee. Your input is invaluable to our common desire to end the pain of hunger which is known by far too many people.

As a Member of this committee's domestic task force, I have become all too aware that the unfortunate but true fact is that millions of Americans face hunger on a daily basis. Hardest hit are those who cannot always fend for themselves, our nation's children and our nation's elderly. Three out of every four persons requesting emergency food assistance are either children or their parents.

In a recent study on older Americans it was found that one in four have a household income of less than $10,000, and one in five skip at least one meal a day. Older Americans are the single largest demographic group likely to be at nutritional risk.

A survey of 30 major American cities in 1990 reported a 22 percent increase in demand for emergency food assistance and a 24 percent increase in demand for emergency shelter. These are very serious statistics for a nation which is the most abundant food producer in the world.

Even here in northeastern Indiana and east central Indiana where we are surrounded by some of the richest farmland in the nation we cannot escape the fact that some of our neighbors are threatened by hunger.

Nine of the 10 counties which I represent in Congress are comprised of small communities and rural areas. For the people in these counties and in similar non-urban regions throughout the country it is difficult to define how far reaching the problem of hunger is because relief services are often dispersed and funding for services is often very difficult to find.

It is critical that the policy makers in Washington hear the challenges which face the people of Indiana and this congressional district as we try to resolve the hunger crisis. I believe that the concerns we will hear today are the concerns shared by Americans across the country.

I am proud that the committee is here today to examine the situation in Indiana because Hoosiers have crafted common sense solutions to the hunger problems which challenge us.

For example, this morning we visited the community of Bluffton, Indiana, where hunger relief services have innovatively been located together. This is critical in rural areas where distances are long and transportation often is not readily available.

Mr. Chairman, at a later date I would like to submit for the record a summary of the findings from that visit.

In addition, the witnesses we will hear from this afternoon each bring their own wisdom gleaned from years of working directly with individuals faced with the crisis of hunger. This is an appropriate opportunity for us to learn about the practical, workable solutions fashioned by these individuals and by their organizations.

I look forward to the testimony of our witnesses, and I am very eager to share the information with my colleagues in Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. We would like to proceed now with our first panel: Joseph Conrad, Mrs. Orvileen Moore and Larry Ritchie. If you would come up to the table and sit in front of your nameplate we can get started.

I would like to briefly give a little bit of background information on the three witnesses. Mr. Conrad is the executive director of Community Action of Northeast Indiana. He has been with Community Action for 13 years, and through Mr. Conrad's work Community Action has initiated many programs, including WIC, Head Start and many private operations to alleviate hunger and foster self-sufficiency throughout northeast Indiana.

Mrs. Moore is a resident of Kimmel, Indiana, in Noble County. She has been a widow for over 11 years. Because of her health Mrs. Moore must live on a restricted diet. She has a fixed income and must rely on others for transportation. Mrs. Moore has been active with the Red Cross and the American Cancer Society.

Mr. Ritchie is a resident of Kendallville—I hope I am pronouncing that correctly—Indiana, also in Noble County. He and his wife, Julie, grew up in Kendallville and have four children ages one to 12. Mr. Ritchie is employed full-time at Newman Manufacturing.

What we would like to do is just start with Mr. Conrad and go right down to Mrs. Moore and then Mr. Ritchie. If you could, we would urge you not to read your whole statement unless it is exceedingly short. We would ask you to really kind of sum it up.

What do you want us to know? What is the most important aspect of the things that you are going to say today?

We really appreciate very much you coming and sharing with us your testimony and what is really on your heart.

Mr. Conrad.

STATEMENT OF JOSEPH H. CONRAD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY ACTION OF NORTHEAST INDIANA, INC.

Mr. **Conrad.** Congressman Hall and Congresswoman Long, first of all I want to thank you for this opportunity to speak to you this afternoon. I am Joe Conrad. I am the executive director of Community Action of Northeast Indiana.

When your staff first contacted me and asked me to provide testimony for this hearing they asked me first of all to explain Community Action's involvement in food and feeding programs over the last 25 years.

They asked me to talk about food resources that are available for needy people in northeast Indiana, particularly in rural areas.

They asked me talk about what sorts of urban programs were operating and how those might be translated to a rural setting and basically what needed to be done in the area of feeding programs in this way.

Then they told me that I had five minutes to make a presentation. This is an impossible task.

I have developed a written testimony and have submitted it, and I do hope that you will take time to read that thoroughly because that does provide me an opportunity to say what I believe needs to be said. With that I am going to attempt to paraphrase what is contained in that written testimony.

First, a little bit about Community Action. We are very experienced in feeding programs and have operated a number of food efforts in the past 25 years. Back in the 1970s when the food stamp program was first around we did a number of outreach activities trying to get people signed up for that program.

We have worked in the Summer Free Lunch Program in years past. We have a Head Start program that feeds young people. We initiated the WIC program in this area and spread it to a six county base.

We are involved in surplus commodity distribution utilizing 800 volunteers and distributing between 1 million and 2 million pounds of food each year. We provide food vouchers for people under a CSBG homeless program and also the FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program. We have been involved in developing food pantries, promoting food pantries and promoting the coordination of those food pantries.

We have worked with community food and nutrition funds in the past and helped develop a canning center in the Hanna-Creighton neighborhood here in Fort Wayne. We have worked in developing the Second Harvest local outlet called Community Harvest Food Bank. We know a little bit about food and food programs and what those problems are.

One thing I want you to know that is true is that here in northeastern Indiana, which is the home of the conservative, independent and self-sufficient farmer where food ought to be readily available, there is lots of hunger, and food is a problem. It should not be that way.

I think you need to ask yourselves why is that situation that way. The food stamp applications in this area have increased 44 percent from last year. That is an incredible increase. We need to ask why it is that those sorts of increases take place.

In terms of food services available in rural areas here, there is not much available. There is the food stamp program, and the food stamp program works very nicely if you have transportation to go and fill out the applications and you can afford to wait the 45 days to receive those food stamps and you have transportation to get to the grocery stores to redeem those food stamps.

The amount of food stamps available is never sufficient to feed your family, which means that when—not if, but when—you run out you need additional assistance.

In the state of Indiana the only general public assistance that is available is through the township trustee system, so when you run out of food what you need to do is you need to go to your township trustee. But, you have to find your township trustee first. That is a task in and of itself.

Usually this is a local farmer or a businessman that is real busy trying to keep his own family fed, but if you can find him and approach him you can ask for additional assistance. You may have to first of all explain to him what poor relief is and what his responsibilities are first of all, and then you better hope that he has a budget for it because he may not have budgeted for poor relief.

You can plead your story to him, and he may decide to help you, or he may not decide to help you. The truth of the matter is that that system is so cumbersome and so demeaning most people simply choose not to use the system whatsoever. They go someplace else.

The other place that you can get assistance if you are lucky is a local church or some organization that has a food pantry. You can go there and get a little bit of food if you are lucky, but you cannot go back there because you are going to wear out your welcome, and the food that you are going to get is not going to be nutritionally balanced, so there is problems with that system, too.

There are elderly nutrition feeding sites, and they do a good job of dealing with social isolation issues, but in terms of poor and working families they do not help much either.

The WIC program provides about $38 worth of assistance if you have a young child and you fit into those program categories, but not many people do.

If you can wait around a couple of months you could wait for a commodity distribution and get some flour and some butter, but that is not really helping you either. There just is not anything to resolve these problems in the rural areas.

I was asked to explore what is unique about rural and urban situations here. First of all, I have to say that hungry people are hungry people. There are more similarities than there is differences.

The major difference is isolation. There is a geographic isolation that I think is an important factor for you to consider in regards to transportation. Whatever is set up needs to be set up in such a way that it is decentralized, it is mail delivered, or there is some kind of public transportation system attached to it.

There is also an issue of a pride barrier in smaller communities in these areas. People in smaller communities are notorious for knowing each other's business. There is a fear of being socially outcast, being labeled a welfare bum somehow or other if you participate in these program. We need to address those kinds of issues as well.

What I would suggest to you and probably the most important thing that I want to say to you is that as you are designing programs and assistance I think you need to put that into the proper perspective. Your hunger assistance strategies need to fit into a much broader and far-sighted strategy than simply hunger.

I think you need to look at what are the goals of your food programs. Are you responding to some sort of a moral responsibility that you feel that society and government has to meet basic needs of the population? Are you trying to guarantee an inalienable American right to food?

Or, are you responding to the fact that hungry school children cannot concentrate on their studies and miss basic living skills later in life that will lead them into dependency? Do you want to provide food, or do you want to insure that poor nutrition does not create health problems?

The congregate meal programs, are they designed to provide food, or are they designed to deal with social isolation issues?

Young mothers and fathers will not—absolutely cannot—think about long term goals, such as education, finding a job or even filling out a food stamp application, if they are concerned about how hungry their children are going to be tonight.

Hunger is only one symptom of a much larger problem that we face. Community Action also is responsible for delivering utility assistance. This past winter we put out over $1,500,000 worth of utility assistance. People come to our doors readily for that kind of assistance.

We also work with the homeless. Hardly a day goes by that we do not find somebody that can no longer afford to pay for shelter. The number of people that we are dealing with with these kinds of problems grows year and year.

I suppose that what we can do is continue to provide a safety net of programs for these people; that is, give them food, and the heat, the homes and the clothing that they need, the health care that they need, but that is going to get pretty dang expensive for us. It already is pretty dang expensive for us.

I think it is high time that we put some money back into all those discretionary programs that we axed out of the budget in the early 1980s, those discretionary programs that were designed to address root causes of poverty and to prevent poverty.

It is time to invest some energy into developing jobs that pay a living wage in America, and it is time to invest in providing all of these people a real opportunity to fill those jobs.

Quite honestly, these people—these poor people—are going to take all the food that you have to offer them, and they are going to take it for as long as we offer it to them until we give them what they really need, and that is an opportunity to buy their own.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Joseph H. Conrad appears at the conclusion of the hearing, see p. 85.]

The **Chairman**. Thank you, Mr. Conrad. Mrs. Moore.

STATEMENT OF ORVILEEN MOORE, KIMMEL, INDIANA

Ms. **Moore**. First of all, I would like to start out by thanking those responsible for allowing me the opportunity to speak out on this matter that I am deeply concerned about.

Food problems are a big concern of mine for more than one reason. First of all, I live in the rural county of Kimmel in Noble County. The food pantries and banks is a big concern. There are none in our areas.

I have no car, no way to get any place to get any help. When I do go to town we have no grocery store in Kimmel. You cannot even buy a loaf of bread. I have to hire somebody to take me to a store. It is pretty inconvenient.

Personally, I have enough money for—I am on a cardiovascular diet, and my diet consists of expensive food. I get $10 in food stamps. The government, the VA, raised my pension in November. My two doctors, my oncologist and my family physician, said that I was under a lot of stress, so they did get me a raise of $200 and some dollars on my VA pension. Well, okay. I got a pension there, and it took me from $34 in my food stamps down to $10 in food stamps, and it also put me on a $214 spend-down each month.

I am on chemotherapy twice a month. A person can have a savings, but when you have four catastrophic illnesses like I have had since 1983 you are depleted—simply depleted. You have to turn somewhere. We try to be poor and proud, but it is embarrassing. I know. I cannot afford to buy the products that I do need for the simple reason that I do not have the money.

I did get by on about $300 and some dollars a month is what I got in social security, SSI and the VA pension. I got a raise in the social security which brought me up to $317, and then I got the raise in the VA. Then they cut my SSI out. They put me back on and cut me down to a spend-down of $214, and I am simply worse off than I was before.

I have gotten a letter from the welfare office, and this is what it says: Your changes did not increase your stamps as I had hoped. Your social security increased, your SSI stopped, your VA pension increased, and your medicaid spend-down decreased considerably. Since your food stamps dropped from $34 to $11 your income is less now than it was before. This does not seem right.

Where do we turn from here? If it would not be for Community Action and other organizations around—Northeast Council on Aging looks after me pretty good.

I have a cleaning lady. When I had my last by-pass two years ago I had my femoral nerve damaged. I have been paralyzed in my right leg. I had to learn to walk again. I was on a walker for about a year and a half.

I think something ought to be done somewhere or somehow not only for me. I am not having a pity party because there are people worse off than I am, but it is rough. I will tell you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Orvileen Moore appears at the conclusion of the hearing, see p. 105.]

The **Chairman**. Thank you, Mrs. Moore.

Ms. **Moore**. You are welcome.

The **Chairman**. Mr. Ritchie?

STATEMENT OF LARRY RITCHIE, KENDALLVILLE, INDIANA

Mr. **Ritchie**. I am here to represent the working poor. I support a family of six.

The **Chairman**. Could you put that microphone up closer to you? Thank you.

Mr. **Ritchie**. I support a family of six at $7.62 per hour. It is just not enough. I pay $323 a month mortgage. I have my car payments set up for $35 a week. I spend about $70 to $100 a week at the grocery store. After I do that some bills do not get paid. I am always behind on my bills.

I was on four days a week last winter. Community Action paid $275 worth of utilities for me. If it was not for that I probably would have lost my house.

I think it starts at the work place. We are paying prices for the 1990s and making wages from back in the 1970s. They just want to keep taking more it seems like.

Like she said, there is nothing around in our area. We have to drive to maybe Fort Wayne or somewhere to get anything. But also like she said, there are worse people off than I am, so I am not having a pity party either. I am just here to tell my story the way I see it.

The government spends billions I think shipping food to other countries and stuff. I think they should worry a little bit more about their own people and how they are doing.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Larry Ritchie appears at the conclusion of the hearing, see p. 106.]

The **Chairman**. Mr. Ritchie, I take it you are through with your testimony?

Mr. **Ritchie**. Yes.

The **Chairman**. Did you want to say anything, Mrs. Ritchie?

Mrs. **Ritchie**. No.

The **Chairman**. What is the nearest pantry store to you? How close is it?

Mr. **Ritchie**. I do not know, but I guess it would be here in Fort Wayne.

The **Chairman**. And how far away is that?

Mr. **Ritchie**. Thirty miles, 35 miles.

The **Chairman**. So the closest pantry, the closest supermarket or grocery store——

Mr. **Ritchie**. Do you mean grocery store?

The **Chairman**. Yes.

Mr. **Ritchie**. The nearest grocery store from my house is only a couple miles.

The **Chairman**. A couple miles? OK. You say in your written testimony that you applied for food stamps one time?

Mr. **Ritchie**. Yes.

The **Chairman**. What happened there?

Mr. RITCHIE. We were offered $20 one time, and that was it. There I was working four days a week. I was already behind on my bills. I did not know what I was going to do.

The CHAIRMAN. How do you manage it every month when you have to pay $35 a week for your car and what was it, $335 for your rent?

Mr. RITCHIE. Well, whatever is left we will pay a bill that we can pay. The others will have to wait a week or two—maybe three weeks to pay the other ones. Then by that time we have a couple more that we have to pay.

The CHAIRMAN. Does that force you to do anything personally as far as you and your wife eating and feeding your children? What do you do?

Mr. RITCHIE. We have had to go without eating a little bit I would say to pay a bill. It is either pay it or lose what you have. My wife was working until she had to go in the hospital and have surgery. She could not work after that.

She is about ready. She can go back to work here before too long, but now I have to save up the money to get her some contact lenses because my little boy lost her lenses. I do not know how I am going to do that.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. Hall, if I might offer I think the answer to the question is there is no place for Mr. Ritchie to go, and that is the point.

I believe that Mr. Ritchie is a decent, hard working man, and I believe that Mrs. Moore is a deserving older person. There is no solution to their problem. There is no solution here.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me ask a question. I have a large piece of legislation I am going to introduce in the next few weeks, and one of the provisions says that a lot of the working people, especially the lower-income people and people that are on fixed incomes, have no chance to participate in what the middle class and the rich have, which is the IRAs, which is our retirement funds.

If you had a chance to save a few dollars and the government would match it would that interest you?

Mr. RITCHIE. Yes, because I have to look out for my future too just like anybody else.

The CHAIRMAN. How about you, Mrs. Moore?

Ms. MOORE. That is true. I would.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Conrad had made a statement that there is no way out of it. What we are trying to do through this legislation is really help empower people like yourself that are facing difficult times now to have a way out—like everybody else in this society really has except for you and about 30 million like you.

Ms. MOORE. Right. I would be working if I could.

The CHAIRMAN. But if you had a chance to save a few dollars and the government matched it, even went beyond matching, you would be interested in that program? We are specifying that the money could be used for education, retirement, your home or small business development.

Ms. MOORE. Now, I do not understand what you are trying to say, so will you repeat it, please?

The CHAIRMAN. What I am trying to say is, you know the IRAs that we used to have, they used to enable many people in this country to save money. The middle class could put some money aside. It would be a tremendous tax benefit, and it would be a way to save for their future. Everybody in our society has that opportunity except the working poor, people on fixed incomes, and the poor. They do not have that at all.

Ms. MOORE. That is right.

The CHAIRMAN. What I am looking for is a way to help the poor get themselves out of poverty by being able to save a few bucks. We will match it. Every time you save we will match it. That is what I am asking. Is there an interest in that?

Ms. MOORE. Where are we going to get the money to save?

The CHAIRMAN. That is the point that I am trying to make.

Ms. MOORE. There is no way. In fact, I have went without medication.

The CHAIRMAN. Mrs. Moore, after you have paid all your bills, how much——

Ms. MOORE. You never pay them all. You do not pay them all.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you have anything left at the end of the month?

Ms. MOORE. No. You budget what you can pay to try and keep the wolf away from the door is about what you do. How are you going to pay all your bills when you are about two times below poverty level?

The CHAIRMAN. Let me ask one last question on the IRA. If the incentive was high enough, if you saved like $1 or $5 and the government not only matched it, but went out five to one or nine to one, would that be incentive enough to do it?

Mr. RITCHIE. I could be able to scrape a dollar here and there to do it.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Conrad, in your testimony you distinguished between food, hunger, and nutrition programs. Can you explain that?

Mr. CONRAD. Yes. I think there is a difference between a food program that is geared towards insuring that people get something in their stomach and a nutrition program that is geared towards insuring that people have adequate nutrition.

As you look at many of the food pantries in the community you will find an imbalanced diet. If you look at the boxes that people take home you will not find meat products. You will not find dairy products. You will not find what they need for a balanced diet. Anybody that is trying to live on that kind of a diet is going to have a nutritional deficiency.

The distinction that I am trying to draw here is whether your programs are geared towards providing adequate nutrition or simply feeding people. I think that is an important distinction because one of the questions that is asked is whether the urban programs can be used in a rural setting; whether they will work in a rural setting.

My sense is that they do not work in the urban settings, so I doubt they are going to work in the rural settings either. There are not public programs. We are sitting here talking about a lot of private programs honestly.

The private programs are the ones that are really meeting this food need. It is private efforts of churches and private non-profit organizations that are coming up with just enough to get these people through to the next food stamp release so that they have something to feed their children. That does not address the nutritional aspects.

The CHAIRMAN. The Community Development Block Grants, how would you change that to make it work for the rural communities?

Mr. CONRAD. Quite honestly, I am not sure that the Community Development Block Grant funds do much for low income people in the urban communities. They do a lot in terms of street repair and those kinds of things, but there is really a limit on the amount of money that is going into social service kinds of efforts.

The CHAIRMAN. What about the Community Services Block Grant then?

Mr. CONRAD. The Community Services Block Grant I am a big proponent of obviously. I believe that there is sufficient flexibility and those monies are sufficiently targeted that they can be used economically to make a lot of things happen in a community.

As I look in this community with some of the things that have happened with Community Services Block Grant dollars, I see a CANI center that is not costing any tax dollars to operate. I see Community Harvest Food Bank, which is principally a private effort. All of that was seeded with Community Services Block Grant.

C.S.B.G. stuff, that money makes it possible for communities to do things that it would not otherwise do, and it all goes to low income people.

Ms. LONG. Mr. Conrad, I do not think you addressed this, and I also think I know what your answer is going to be, but I would like it for the record. You talked about how you have had an increase in demand for your services, and I think in the last year it went up 44 percent.

In addition to having more people come to you with a need could you describe whether or not there has been a change in the characteristics of the people who are coming regarding employment and so forth in the last couple of years?

Mr. CONRAD. First of all let me straighten something out. What I said is the food stamp applications went up 44 percent.

Honestly I do not know what the level of demand for our services is at. We never have enough money to meet the demand, so there is always this unknown quantity out here we are just simply not meeting.

We have more and more demand. That is obvious. The types of people that we are seeing are changing. We are seeing more and more of Mr. Ritchie's situation—working people that are not able to make it, people that last year with the support of friends and neighbors were living with somebody else that that now cannot be support. We see more and more working people that are in this situation.

Ms. LONG. Let me ask you, too, with regard to transportation problems. This really is a problem in rural areas if you do not have a car or even if you do have a car if you cannot always afford gasoline. From where I live it is 35 miles into Fort Wayne, so you are talking about a substantial cost if you have to drive that distance.

What have you been doing to help mobilize people who do not have easy access? Have you been able to do anything?

Mr. **Conrad**. The very best thing that we could do is try to find somebody else in their community, match them up with a neighbor or somebody that is compassionate and see if we cannot arrange transportation that way.

That is the only solution that we have found, and it is an inadequate sort of a solution.

Ms. **Long**. Sort of haphazard?

Mr. **Conrad**. Yes.

Ms. **Long**. If there is somebody available and they have the time.

Mr. **Conrad**. One of the things I want to make you aware of is I attended one of the numerous social service agency forums where a lot of agencies come together. I attended one last fall where we went around the table, and I think there must have been 25 to 30 organizations here in Fort Wayne that were represented.

Every single one of those organizations basically said we are in a crisis. We do not have monies to meet this increasing demand. There is a real problem that is out there, and nobody seems to be able to address it. The numbers are geometrically expanding here for us.

I honestly believe, and what I want to do is frighten you a little bit. I believe that our mechanisms for addressing these problems are in danger of collapse, and I expect that to happen very soon if we do not address ourselves to this.

I know that welfare departments are understaffed and they cannot meet the demands that are made upon them. I know the township trustee here in Wayne Township faces the same kind of crisis. If the band increases people will turn to crime and other sorts of solutions to their problems. We need to address it, and we need to address it right away.

Ms. **Long**. I have a question for Mr. Ritchie. Do you have school aged children? Do you have kids in school?

Mr. **Ritchie**. Two.

Ms. **Long**. Two of your children are in school? Are they qualifying for any reduced price meals so you are not having to pay the full amount for their lunch programs?

Mr. **Ritchie**. Yes.

Ms. **Long**. What about in the summertime? Is there anything available for them, any kind of lunch program for them in the summer?

Mr. **Ritchie**. No.

Ms. **Long**. I do not have any other questions, Mr. Chairman.

The **Chairman**. I want to thank the panel very much for taking the time to be with us today to give your testimony.

I want you and the other people that will be testifying to know that your written statement will be part of the record. There might be some other questions that we would like to submit to you, so we are going to keep the hearing record open for probably a period of two weeks. I will make that announcement probably at the end.

Thank you very much. We are a Hunger Committee that cares very, very much, and that is why we are here: to try to find out how we can help. Thank you.

I would like to now introduce our next panel. By the way, we have three panels today. Our next panel is made up of Ms. Joan Uebelhoer and Mr. Thomas Essex.

Ms. Uebelhoer is the executive director of the Allen County Department of Public Welfare. She is also the Northeast Indiana District Director and therefore has responsibility for the Departments of Public Welfare in 11 counties. She was appointed executive director in December of 1989.

Mr. Essex is the Wayne Township trustee here in Allen County. He was elected to this position in November of 1990. Indiana law provides that the responsibility of providing poor relief lies with the township trustee. Mr. Essex assists about 30,000 persons per year in Wayne Township, providing them with food, shelter, clothing and assistance for utilities.

We thank you very much for being here. Ms. Uebelhoer, am I pronouncing that correctly?

Ms. UEBELHOER. Yes, you are.

The CHAIRMAN. I would ask you to start us off, please.

STATEMENT OF JOAN UEBELHOER, DIRECTOR OF WELFARE, DISTRICT III, STATE OF INDIANA

Ms. UEBELHOER. Thank you, and I thank you, too, for being here. My name is Joan Uebelhoer, as you said, and I am the Director of Welfare for District Three for the State of Indiana.

My district covers the whole northeast corner of Indiana, Allen County being the largest geographical county in the state and in this area. It contains a metropolitan area, Fort Wayne, but also a lot of rural areas. The other ten counties in my district are mostly rural with small towns dotting the landscapes, but each with a county seat.

As Joe Conrad has said, the State of Indiana experienced a 24 percent increase, 1990 over 1989, in those availing themselves of welfare programs. The northeast corner of Indiana was up 38 percent to 45 percent in some counties, so the fact that you are having a hearing on hunger in this area is a good thing.

There is also a whole uncounted group of people, as a group reminded me in Steuben County not long ago, of people whose kids have moved back home and who are not making it. They are taking care of that, so there is sort of a sub-culture of welfare going on in the families in northeast Indiana.

As we speak about hunger I cannot help but add a personal note. This is not a welfare position, but one day during this current recent Bush war my waiting room was filled. I heard the President announce that all prisoners of war must be guaranteed shelter and clothing and medical care and food. I was tempted to go into my waiting room and ask everybody there to lay down and waive a white flag and surrender.

The barriers to receiving enough to eat in this part of America are many, and I would like to just go over them briefly. I have submitted a lengthy written testimony.

I would like to start at the beginning and look at people from early on. The prenatal problems in this part of the country for poor women is becoming more and more scarce. The vitamins and nutrition that a pregnant woman should be taking, especially high risk women, are delayed beyond the point of substantial fetal development because it is difficult to get. By the time that she gets a pregnancy test and gets into prenatal care there is really a long waiting period here.

In the postpartum time the WIC program has been cut substantially for women after delivery who are not nursing. Those are usually high risk and poor moms.

Then I would like to talk about the food stamp program. The truth is that there are a lot of barriers to receiving food stamps, and some of them Joe talked about. Recently F&S conducted through a consulting firm studies of five counties in the United States, and Allen County was one of them. They looked at the barriers to receiving food stamps, and that study is part of my written testimony.

What the study showed was that it takes an inordinate amount of time and a good deal of out-of-pocket money just to access yourself to food stamps. I think in Allen County they found that it took at least $10.39 for the time lost and bus fare to just get to the welfare office.

Transportation is another barrier to getting food stamps. We have already talked about that. In every county in this district transportation is a major barrier. There is no public transportation in ten of the counties, and in Allen County the public transportation only goes to the metropolitan areas.

Commercial busses that used to go from small town to small town are non-existent. Trains are non-existent. It is very difficult for people to travel.

The regulations themselves in food stamps are a barrier. There is no consolidated standard of need as in AFDC regulations, so we have to verify every little expense. That takes a lot of time and often many trips to the welfare office.

Housing is a real barrier to getting enough to eat because during the previous and present federal administration the money for housing has been cut, so a lot of times people are selling their food stamps in order to pay for their rent. Rumor has it that on the streets on Fort Wayne you can get about 60 cents on the dollar for your food stamps. They are paying rent with food money.

Marketing we talked about because rural people often do not know about the food stamp program.

The food stamps amounts I think are a barrier. A client receives the same amount of food stamps across the 48 contiguous states whether they live in New York City or a small town in northern Indiana. Perhaps the food stamps could be somehow connected to the cost of living or the cost of food.

We have erratic supplemental help. Food stamps usually last about 21 days of the month most studies show, and many of our counties have food banks sponsored by high schools or churches or service organizations that are often seasonal. People often do not come out until they are really in desperate need.

My director in DeKalb County gave me this quote. She said often people do not come until they are really down and out. We have some supplies of surplus commodities under our counter, and mostly they consist of pears, flour and canned pork. At least it is food she says.

The township trustee system we can talk about. In some townships there is a very well organized township trustee with a real social worker mentality. In some the townships have no standards, no office hours and often are exclusionary as far as which citizens that they will take care of.

Jobs are also an important thing that we need to talk about when we are talking about hunger. The people who spoke before me eloquently addressed that. The amount of debt that we forgave Turkey in order to have them join us in this last war was more than the total amount of farm subsidy for one year in the United States I have been told.

We have experienced two deep recessions in the past decade in the United States, and in the Fourth District what has happened is many people fell from the $12 an hour automotive jobs in that first recession to $8 an hour jobs. Now these same people with assets all used up are being laid off. The only jobs available are the minimum wage jobs.

About 50 percent of our people who come in for food stamps are working people. Working and still not making it I think is the ultimate American dream gone nightmare.

Companies with part-time help paying no benefits are asking the taxpayer to pick up their benefit packages for their workers because those workers then are eligible sometimes for medicaid for their kids. They are eligible for food stamps. They are eligible for government housing. They are eligible for reduced lunches for our kids.

We are 22nd in the world in our infant mortality rate, and I think if I could suggest anything it would be to study those 21 nations that are ahead of us because I think if we do a better job of saving babies during that first year we certainly would be well on our way to alleviating the hunger that follows the poverty that causes infant mortality rates.

One out of every three children in the largest school system in Allen County is eligible for free or sliding scale lunches, and now we are told that 32 percent of our kids in this state born in the next two years will be eligible for our medicaid programs.

That means that we are going to have a lot of kids born into households in poverty in this wonderful middle America. I think that that is a promise not of a great future for middle America, but a great tragedy.

I thank you for coming to northeast Indiana, and I hope that you hear us and take this message back to Washington that this system as it stands is simply not working for 25 percent of our population.

A lot of people think that the welfare system is supposed to meet at least the basic needs of the people, and it is not. I think if we were meeting the basic needs as government then the other social service agencies, the temples, the synagogues, the schools, the service organizations could then work to make the quality of life better for our people, but that is not what is happening.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Joan Uebelhoer appears at the conclusion of the hearing, see p. 59.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Jill, do you have any questions for us?

Ms. LONG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mrs. Uebelhoer, I would like to ask you a similar question to one that I asked Mr. Conrad. You made reference to the fact that 50 percent of the people who qualify for food stamps have some kind of employment and some of it full-time employment.

Ms. UEBELHOER. That is right.

Ms. LONG. How does that 50 percent figure compare to previous years? Do you have those statistics readily available?

Ms. UEBELHOER. I can get them for you. I know that it has probably doubled since the 1988 figures that we have.

Ms. LONG. Doubled since 1988?

Ms. UEBELHOER. Yes.

Ms. LONG. Let me also ask you, nationwide we are meeting about 60 to 65 percent of the needs of the people who would be eligible to receive benefits. That is across the country.

How do the figures in your 11 counties compare with that? I know you are not reaching everybody, but are you somewhere close to the 60 to 65 percent?

Ms. UEBELHOER. In Allen County the study that the F&S came back with said that of all the people—this is all the people that applied, though, not all the people that are eligible—only 58 percent of them go through the whole process. The other 42 percent are somehow stopped by some barrier or another.

Of all the people that would be eligible in this community how many of those are we serving? I do not know those statistics, but I would be glad to find out for you.

Ms. LONG. If you could get those figures you could submit them as part of the record.

Since you serve Allen County as well as rural counties outside of Allen County, could you give us a sense of differences in ability to meet the needs of clients in the rural counties versus in a county like Allen County that is much more urban?

Ms. UEBELHOER. Of course, transportation is always the big problem. Here in Allen County we have in the Fort Wayne area put together some things. We are working together, and I think there will be others addressing that with the township, with welfare, with the associated churches and other people in the community to try to feed our common clients.

The problem always exists outside, and now in Allen County in the small rural little cities we are having difficulties in some of the food banks that are being put out there.

What would be nice is if I could put a welfare satellite in all those little towns, but given the restraints of staff and money you cannot do that.

Ms. LONG. I want to make sure that I am understanding this then. I think I do, but there really are two major problems in the rural communities that make the services less accessible. One is that people in rural communities tend to be, and this is not from your testimony but from previous testimony, less willing to seek help.

Ms. UEBELHOER. That is right.

Ms. LONG. So you have a smaller number of people who would qualify even applying, and once they do apply and do qualify it is much harder to meet their needs because of inaccessibility of the offices and so forth?

Ms. UEBELHOER. That is right. It is just too difficult to get to that county seat.

Ms. LONG. I do not have any other questions, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. How successful are the training programs and employment programs for the rural areas in producing jobs? Have they been successful?

Ms. UEBELHOER. Allen County has just been designated a pilot county for the IMPACT Program. Is that what you are talking about that comes out of the Job Works and that sort of thing?

I think that right now in the state of Indiana the mandatory counties, the counties that have the programs up and going, are the counties that have the urban areas. In the rural counties few of them, because of the numbers, have been designated as pilots or as targeted counties, so I think those programs have not been as successful in the rural counties.

The CHAIRMAN. So there is virtually little employment programs in those counties that have not been designated that are rural?

Ms. UEBELHOER. That is right. In this whole district I only have two. Miami I do not think is in your district, is it, Jill? No. It is outside the Fourth District.

Ms. LONG. I am sorry?

Ms. UEBELHOER. Miami County is the only other one in my district.

Ms. LONG. That is in the Fifth Congressional District.

Ms. UEBELHOER. Yes, that is not in this Congressional District, so there is only one in this Congressional District, Allen, which has been designated for that program.

The program I think could be successful. It is very difficult to get people quickly into independence from illiteracy. That takes a lot time.

The CHAIRMAN. What do you think about the idea of IRAs for low-income people?

Ms. UEBELHOER. The thing that you were just talking about before?

The CHAIRMAN. What we discussed about earlier, yes.

Ms. UEBELHOER. I think that on the one hand it sounds like a great idea because I think that people who are struggling to make it day by day have difficulty even beginning to think about their long term goals, and that would be a wonderful idea.

The other problem is where do you get that extra $5 to put in the savings account? When your basic needs are not being met it is very difficult to go on from there. People want to save. It is do they have the bucks to do that.

The CHAIRMAN. Would the incentive do it if it was two, three, four, even up to nine to one? Would the incentive help them to save?

Ms. UEBELHOER. Sure, but I think the incentive is not all. I think the people that you met here have great incentive and great need and great want to educate their kids to make life better for themselves and their kids, but if they had the dollars I am sure they would do it. I do not think it is lack of incentive that is keeping them from putting $10 away every week.

The CHAIRMAN. There is another aspect of the legislation. It is called the Freedom From Want Act. There are micro-enterprise projects. In the Community Development Block Grant program we would like a one percent set aside for micro-enterprise projects, which would provide small amounts of money for people that are low income—or very, very poor—to really start their own business. I am not talking about a business that owns buildings. I am talking about a poor person, as you know, that cannot go to the bank. They have no collateral. They cannot borrow money.

Ms. UEBELHOER. That is right.

The CHAIRMAN. If they go on the street and borrow from somebody in a usurious fashion it just does not work.

It is a strange thing that this micro-enterprise idea has come from Third World nations. We are trying to bring this idea, through this Bill, to the United States where we are saying, you know, so many people have gifts. The difference could be a sewing machine.

We are talking about small amounts of money like $200, $300, $400 that could be loaned out, and people coming together, like through churches, where they would work together.

This is the way it works overseas. The first two people are given the money, and they have to pay so much back a week as they start their business. The other people, who are in fellowship, try to work with them. They do not get their money to start their business until the first two start to pay their loans back.

Ms. UEBELHOER. Sure. You would need a mentor system of somebody helping them with the business end of things.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes. It is a peer system, and it is an encouraging system. It is kind of a fellowship system. It really, really works.

In Bangladesh they started with nothing and now have 18,000 borrowers. Their largest loan is $50. It has been a phenomenal success. It has provided a lot of new jobs.

Would there be a way in these rural areas to provide small amounts of money, set aside——

Ms. UEBELHOER. I think especially in a rural community where you have a small town something like that could happen.

I think there also has to be some sort of work to change the attitude of our public toward the poor. When you were talking before about matching money that they save there is a real strong negative attitude toward poor people. I get complaints all the time about somebody that is spending food stamps on Coca-Cola and why is she not buying broccoli or something.

Somehow there is a lot of feeling in this country that something is wrong with poor people morally and that they are lazy. I think we need a good sell job to turn that around if we are really do some kind of programs to help people.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Essex, we have not heard your testimony yet. Would you proceed, please?

STATEMENT OF THOMAS ESSEX, WAYNE TOWNSHIP (ALLEN COUNTY) TRUSTEE

Mr. **Essex**. As the trustee of Wayne Township my primary duties are to act as an overseer of the poor and to provide temporary and emergency assistance to families who are in need.

Wayne Township is one of three urban townships in the State of Indiana. My township consists of 67 percent of the City of Fort Wayne, or roughly 117,000 people. In 1990 the township served the needs of over 30,000 people, residents of Wayne Township.

With the rising number of individuals in need of public assistance and the shrinking availability of funds to provide those needs, new and innovative ways of serving the needs of the poor are necessary. To be able to provide food for the needy in the 1990s, social agencies within our community must pool together their available resources in an intense effort to feed the poor.

In a country as prosperous as the United States no child should ever go to bed hungry, but this happens every night. The attention of our country must now be focused on the domestic problems that we are facing. By now it is obvious that the United States is the most powerful country in the world. However, with great power comes great responsibilities. The primary responsibility now must be for those within our country who need our help.

The Wayne Township trustee's office is designed to provide temporary and emergency assistant. Therefore, the trustee's office cannot provide the long term food needs for the hungry. The long term needs must be provided by the Department of Public Welfare.

The welfare department's food stamp program does not adequately provide enough food for a one month period of time. I have been informed by the executive director, and you have heard her today state that the monthly allocation for food stamps realistically only lasts for 21 days.

The first step in resolving the problems of feeding the poor must be to increase food stamp allotments so that families in need will have enough food to last for an entire month.

The food stamp program must be a long term mechanism to feed the poor until other programs like those funded by the Jobs Training Partnership Act and the Department of Welfare IMPACT Program can train and/or educate individuals so they can join or reenter the work force.

Once the long term mechanism has been perfected it becomes the responsibility of the private and public social agencies to address the needs of the indigent for the period of time when the processing of their food stamps is taking place.

Wayne Township, working in conjunction with other private agencies like Associated Churches Food Bank, who will be testifying later, is providing these services. By working together under the same roof we are able to sustain clients during the waiting period.

Although we are in an urban township, I believe this same program can work in rural areas. By combining the available resources and focusing on the problems social agencies can make some progress in the war on poverty.

Winning battles in the war on poverty is going to require additional funding for the food stamp program and also additional funding for private and public agencies. Also, private and public social agencies need to form an agenda to develop ways to feed individuals for this entire waiting period.

Now is the time for our country to show the rest of the world that we can be as strong in fighting peace-time battles as we are in fighting in a time of war. The primary function of this New World Order as outlined by President Bush must at least provide the basic needs for those who cannot provide for themselves.

I would like to thank the Committee on Hunger for allowing me to speak this afternoon. I would like to thank the Chairman, Chairman Hall, and my representative, Congresswoman Jill Long, for having this forum.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Thomas Essex appears at the conclusion of the hearing, see p. 63.]

Ms. LONG. Thank you, Mr. Essex. I would like to ask you a question. I know that in my own township that our township trustee keeps very much abreast of other agencies, and we are in a rural area so it is much more limited than in an urban area, but he is very much aware of opportunities and programs to assist those who have a need in our township.

You mentioned that you work in conjunction with the Associated Churches Food Bank. I know that you have only been in office a couple of months, so I do not expect that you have a grand program in place at this point, but do you have some ideas or thoughts on how different agencies, private and publicly funded, can work together?

Mr. ESSEX. The first thing that the social agencies, both private and public, must do is form an agenda of how we can attack the problems that people are facing and the needs that they require.

Once we can set that agenda then I think we need to put our resources in following that agenda and trying to solve the problems that people are facing. At the end of that if we see that we are still lacking funds or still need additional funding to carry on then I think we need to proceed.

Wayne Township is just one of 20 townships in Allen County. Some are large. Some are larger than others. Some are small. Since I have been township trustee I have been in several meetings with the township trustees in Allen County, and they are starting to realize that our problems are common. I think that is the first step we are going to have to take.

The way the law is outlined when it comes to township trustees is each one has their own territory. That is a problem because the problems of the poor cover the entire county. Once we can start thinking along the lines that we need solutions that will be able to address in the rural and urban areas then we will be able to make progress. Then we can pull together with the private social agencies and show them that we are willing to help. Slowly we are starting to move in that direction.

Ms. LONG. Let me also ask you about transportation. Yours is obviously considerably more urban than many township trustee offices in the Fourth Congressional District. Is transportation a significant problem for your clients?

Mr. Essex. Well, we are a lot better off than a lot of rural townships. We have a public transportation system here, but the main problem is that people would have to go all over town to be able to seek services. That is the biggest problem that people are facing.

The Wayne Township trustee's office is several blocks away. Unfortunately, the welfare department is about five miles away. By working together we might have to send someone to the welfare department for help, and they have to find a way to get five miles.

I am happy to say that Joan and I have been working together. We have been able to do some things together in our townships, such as the food stamp program. There are things that we need to do more, but I think we have to move in the direction of bringing social agencies together in one location, a one stop shop as they call it, so that people will not have to go all over.

In rural townships the problem, if it is anything like it is here, and we have public transportation, I really feel sorry for them because they would have to go miles on end to reach a township trustee. Some of them are not open regular hours. It could be a nightmare in the rural areas.

Ms. Long. Thank you. I do not have any other questions.

The Chairman. Mr. Essex, about how many people of the people that you serve are working?

Mr. Essex. I would say the number is growing. I could not give you the exact number. We had a raise in the minimum standards to $4.25 effective April 1, and I did not see a drop off of clients. Individuals at $4.25 are still eligible for township assistance, so the number has to be large, and it is still growing.

I think it was a good effort on the part to increase minimum wage, but I think it is significantly lower than where we need to go. Until we are able to do that and find some way of being able to serve the working poor the number is just going to continually grow.

The Chairman. Do you have an idea how many are homeless in your township?

Mr. Essex. Well, I cannot give you the exact numbers, but I can tell you that we are seeing a large number of individuals who are coming to the township with zero income and have rent due, etc., and that number is growing. With the recession the availability of funds are starting to be slim.

Individuals are coming in, and the numbers of homeless have to be growing. We are seeing more individuals with zero income with large mortgages or large rents that we have to try to come up with some way of meeting their needs. We just really basically are running out of funds. We do not have the money to do that.

The township, as I stated, is a temporary agency, but we are running with what do you do with an individual who has zero income and who is going to have zero income next month and the month after that and the month after that?

We become a long term agency, and the funding for the township is just not designed for that, so we are ending up borrowing a lot of money. We are going to have to come up with some other system, some other way of handling these problems.

The **Chairman**. The job of the trustee, your major responsibility really is to take care of the poor? And to coordinate many of the government programs that go to the poor?

Mr. **Essex**. Well, they call me the overseer of the poor, so I guess to answer your question I would have to say yes. My primary responsibility is to see to their needs. That is a responsibility that I gladly accept, but I also have to say without hesitation that when the number grows to the level that we are at now the township system is having problems.

I think we are going to have to really move in the area of job training and education to find some way of getting individuals back into the work force. When we have individuals with zero income it is a major problem. When we are at minimum wage and individuals are working minimum wage and we still have a serious problem then I think the problem is not with people wanting to work, etc. I think the problem is with the amount of money they are being paid.

The **Chairman**. So this is an office that you run for that is elevated that really everybody when they are voting, and pardon my ignorance here because I have never heard of an office like this in the State of Ohio where I come from, but everybody understands when they are voting for this office they are voting for the person that they feel is best going to handle the poor, right? Is that essentially how they vote on this office?

Mr. **Essex**. Well, since I won I better say yes.

The **Chairman**. In light of that, if you were in another audience except for here—say it is a group of people that are not your constituents and they are not people that you are working with and stuff—if you were to tell them about the hunger problem—and this could be a question for both of you—and the poverty not only in the Fourth Congressional District but let's say in this county, would they be shocked? Would they believe you? Do they know what is going on?

Mr. **Essex**. I do not know if they would believe me. It would be the truth. The major problem that I see with the township I do not believe is hunger as much as other problems that we are facing. Hunger and the food is a major problem, but there is a welfare department in this area to help offset that.

I think if this country would take the initiative to better fund the welfare department I think we can help those individuals' needs. No one should have to go hungry in this country. It is just irresponsible for anyone to allow this to happen; to allow the welfare department to be so underfunded.

The township system can help subsidize individuals and help them get to the point where they should be able to get to from the welfare department.

Where I see major problems is with jobs. Individuals have no jobs, so they have no way of being able to maintain shelter. The only place for a person to fall back on is in the township system here in Indiana. In Ohio it is different than in Indiana.

I think the township system can work. I just think that we need to better utilize an avenue like the welfare department and take the initiative to better fund such a service. That would help my office out a lot.

The **Chairman**. Joan, did you want to comment on that?

Ms. **Uebelhoer**. Yes. I have been in this job for about a year and a half, and I think I have lost all my friends because they keep saying Joan, we are so tired of your horror stories. Say something funny once in a while.

Every once in a while I sit in the intake office. As people come in I think what Tom said is very true. The problems are not just hunger. They are just so multiple that it is very difficult for people to understand.

Not long ago when I was there the first woman that came in was a young woman who had come from Finley, Ohio. She heard that there was work in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Her friends had dropped her at a trailer court in New Haven, and she got a place to stay there and spent all her money getting that.

Then she got somebody that she did know to watch her three kids while she walked to the welfare office to get started. What I needed was somebody who could just take that person around and get all the stuff that she needed. She did not understand the trustee system.

The next couple was a couple of kids where she was pregnant. She was due next month, and she heard we had insurance. They did not have any food in the house. I said have you had any prenatal care? She said what does that mean? I said have you been to the doctor? No, ma'am, she had not.

That is the kind of person that comes in hour after hour after hour. It is not just food. I think we can find food for people. It is that nutrition that Joe was talking about. Our people are not eating well. Their kids are being born malnourished. We get lots of kids on our welfare rolls that are in neglect and abuse kind of situations because of these families.

I think that most people in the world that I live in, in the class that I live in, do not believe that is actually going on. As I said in my testimony, 25 percent are not making it in this system.

The **Chairman**. And I think you really hit on something right there that the Hunger Committee is trying to do. The fact is that in this country we have the greatest military minds that this world knows——

Ms. **Uebelhoer**. Right.

The **Chairman**. We cannot even feed our own people. The amazing thing about it is that people in the country do not know it. They really do not know it.

I believe Americans are very decent. When you hit them in the heart and tell them about it they in fact will react. We have not done a good job in this country of telling people about this problem.

Ms. **Uebelhoer**. That is right. If we could have had the kind of genius turned towards helping people to live and the propaganda that we have seen in the last month dedicated to our people here who really need us I think America could have done something about what is going on.

The **Chairman**. That is what we hope to do on this committee.

Ms. **Uebelhoer**. That is what I hope you do.

The **Chairman**. It is a long process. We are finding ourselves having to go back and build it brick by brick. It is difficult. It is not only embarrassing that it is going on in our country, it is frustrating.

What does it mean not only to the 20 million hungry people, but also to people like me that have to go to these people to listen to them? It is the same story. When I go home and tell my friends they do not believe it. They do not believe it. If my friends do not believe it, the country does not either. When the country does not believe it, they are not going to do anything about it.

Ms. UEBELHOER. That is right. You know, it was interesting during all this hype. We had a lot of families of servicemen that were then eligible for food stamps because they were taken out of jobs that paid a lot and were sent over or called back up, and their families were in positions where they were eligible for food stamps. That I think is also occurring.

The CHAIRMAN. It has been most informative. Thank you very much.

I would like to now call our final panel to the witness table, Pastor Vern Graham, Mrs. Janet Satterfield, Rev. Clyde Adams and Rev. Thomas O'Connor.

Pastor Graham is the executive director of Associated Churches of Allen County. This position he has held for three years. He has been organizing food banks throughout the Fort Wayne area for the past 10 years. Last year Associated Churches of Allen County served over 32,000 persons.

Mrs. Satterfield is the executive director of Community Harvest Food Bank here in Fort Wayne. She has been with the food bank for six of the seven years that it has been in operation. During this time she has been quite successful in working to develop the food bank as a community cooperative effort. Each year they have distributed over 4 million pounds of food.

I would also like to note that Mrs. Satterfield and Community Harvest played a major role in developing a gleaning project in the State of Indiana back in 1988, which is very dear to my heart.

We have a change on the panel. Apparently Rev. Tom O'Connor has not shown up, and we are not sure if he is going to be here in time.

Ms. LONG. If I might, Mr. Chairman, Father O'Connor is not going to be here, and we just got word that the woman who compiled the statistics and does the work for him passed away. For that reason he is not going to be able to be here this afternoon. We just learned of that. I am sorry about that.

The CHAIRMAN. Rev. Clyde Adams, who represents the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance was scheduled to testify this afternoon. Unfortunately, we just learned that he had to be out of town today. We have asked Rev. Adams to submit written testimony on behalf of the Alliance.

We are glad to have you two here. Pastor Graham, if you would start us off I would appreciate it.

STATEMENT OF REVEREND VERNON R. GRAHAM, EXECUTIVE PASTOR OF THE ASSOCIATED CHURCHES OF FT. WAYNE AND ALLEN COUNTY

Rev. **GRAHAM**. Congressman Hall, Congresswoman Long, I am honored to be here this afternoon.

The subject disturbs my heart. These are confusing times in our country. We can just fight one of the greatest moments in our history as far as fighting a war with such few casualties, but yet every time a plane went down the figure of $25 million or $35 million was on the horizon.

These are confusing times because prior to 1980 the rich were getting richer, and the poor were getting poorer. Since 1980 and the new federalism where we said the federal government cannot do everything and we need to partner with the private sector the rich, or shall I say the middle class, are becoming poorer, and the poor are still getting poorer.

These are troubled and confusing times. In our community there are nearly 30,000 people monthly—now hear me, monthly—that are going somewhere and begging for food, shelter, clothing, utilities, whatever it might be to be able to make it. That is 10 percent of our population.

According to a recent study done nationally, one out of eight were hungry. That would be pretty close to the statistics here in Fort Wayne and Allen County.

We are seeing more and more hungry people in our food bank system, what began in 1980 for a few transients. The Mayor brought us all together and said can somebody help with these problems. The social service agencies said we will all take a different part of it. The church said we will collect cans of food, and we will distribute them through a food bank south of the river.

What began in 1980 as caring for transients, long before we called them homeless, is now becoming a full-fledged system where every year over the last 10 years we have averaged over 27,000 Fort Wayne and Allen County residents have received a 15 meal supply of food. That may not seem like a lot, but it is all because of the generosity of this all-caring community.

You are going to be asking soon what types of things you can do to help. You can help by realizing you already have some magnificent programs in place. The greatest minds in our world have come up with these. New ones are on the horizon to help make a difference. But, all of the programs will not make one bit of difference if you do not adequately fund them.

We have a food pantry system where we network with the public sector. You have heard Joan and Tom speak where the food banks are working together with the government to make a difference. We would love to be out of the food business. We would love to not have to serve one more can of beans to anyone in Allen County because their needs were being met. Those would be the most exciting hallelujah days.

Then maybe I, too, can celebrate the end of a war, not in the Middle East, but a war on our own people in the United States of America.

You see, we have a new plantation. The new plantation is called America. We have a new slave, and the new slave is everybody who has to jump through the hoops of the system that we would call poor. By the grace of God anybody of us could be there.

When we started in 1980 we were serving transients, but then a flood came in 1982, a major recession. By 1984 the Time magazine had us turning off the lights in Fort Wayne and Allen County because Harvester left us. We have had a number of set-backs, including since last April a major recession.

When Congress uses the word recession it has kind of a tone to it, but it really does not say much. For the poor it is a depression. There just are not the resources there to serve them.

What we have been able to do at the Associated Churches Food Bank is in the record. We have networked with government. We have networked with factories. We have networked with schools and individuals. We have networked through FEMA funds. We have networked with nearly every agency to allow every child in Allen County, every senior citizen, to not have to go to bed hungry tonight.

Then you add what Janet is doing, and you add what Father Tom is doing, and you add what the Ministerial Alliance is doing, and you add countless other private sectors. I would call them points of light in this community. We do a fine job, but it is never enough.

We are pleased that we can reach out. The statistics you will have in front of you show that since 1980 our food bank system, which means a church or a neighborhood center in every neighborhood or township in Allen County which makes your rural issue important to us, people can go there for food. All they have to do is prove that they live in that township and they have not eaten, and they will be helped.

In 1980 we helped once a year—fires, unemployment, whatever emergencies there were. Because of the tremendous need now we are feeding once a month. What began as just kind of a blanket to catch those who fell through the government cracks, my friends, the wall has broken. The system is not working. The private sector is called upon to do more and more, and the funds are not always there.

We have served 263,000 Fort Wayne and Allen County residents since 1980, about 26,000 or 27,000 on an average a year. That turns out to be 75,000 family units. That is not terribly impressive because it is numbers, but when you add the meals that we have served it is 3,500,000 meals since 1980. You put dollar values to that, and that is nearly $2,500,000.

What began as maybe 10 percent in 1980 of the working poor being served, today I can report to you in our 23 food bank sites 60 percent are working poor. Those are people who are not qualifying. If they qualify at all for food stamps it might be $10 worth, as you have heard. That story is not unique, and many times they do not qualify for township aid.

Until this month, if they got township aid they did not qualify or they were disqualified for food stamp help or for AFDC help. I understand that is changing, but thanks be to God. The private sector is more than willing to reach out and do what they can—churches, different groups.

The unique thing about our program is that they do get balanced meals. We work with the home economics group at IU-Purdue, and we do have the cans of tuna, the cans of pork or the cans of beef or the bags of potatoes or whatever else might be needed. That makes it more exciting than just passing out a bag of maybe government commodities or that which has been donated or that which has been salvaged.

We work directly with a number of agencies. As Thomas told you, we have set up now a one stop shop with the welfare department and with the township trustee where a client can get on food stamps by first coming to our food bank in the basement of the trustee's office, then by getting help by the trustee, and then coming back to the food bank. We have been promised that we get a 25 rather than a 45 day waiting period. That is exciting for those who qualify.

We are also beginning to work with CANI and some of the other programs to be able rather than just to open up our lines of people to government commodities we will be able to exactly help the poor rather than just those who feel that they need, sometimes even with greed. That will be an exciting innovation that until this year was not allowed by the State of Indiana.

You asked the question before about your Block Grant support. I can share with you that we received this year a $35,000 Block Grant—Social Service Block Grant—from the City of Fort Wayne.

When you start looking at 325 volunteers, when you look at free volunteer warehouse space, all the utilities and the housing for the food bank program, when you add all of that up together that means for every dollar you have given in Block Grant social service help we have raised $20 worth of community effort and community support to help make a difference.

Those are fantastic statistics. Ours is by no means the most fantastic as you look at other programs throughout the country, but I think it tells a story. It tells the story that a partnership needs to take place in the private and public sector.

What can you do? The WIC program, for example, if a mother has a baby and she qualifies for WIC to give her a can of food a day what happens when that baby gets to be four, five, six, seven, eight months old and needs a can and a half or a can and a quarter? You go back to WIC, and they say I am sorry. We cannot give you any more. The government says.

Our program has provided for the last year and a half back-up formula for Three Rivers Health Clinic and some of the other programs not only for WIC, but for the Matthew 25 Clinic and others. Private sector should not have to pick that up. It is something that just by changing the law or changing the requirements—a simple process—will make a great deal of difference.

Speaking for Dr. Bledsoe in the black community, the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, we have a joint program with them every summer. Last summer for six weeks we fed 7,000 kids, kids that were in school where many of them were receiving hot lunches, and now they are receiving them every day of the week at a different church in the inner city.

Not only are they getting food, but they are getting dignity. They are finding out what it means to be a human being and work with other people.

This summer we are adding a literacy component, and the children will be working with mentors to help them read. It is not incidental that we have 24,000 illiterate people here in Fort Wayne and Allen County.

To end up my speech because Janet knows I like to do this and preachers can never take five minutes, I would like to share with you that it is important what you do in Washington. It is important what we do in support. I believe it takes that kind of networking to get the job done.

I do believe since 1980 we have made some conscious decisions on how we spend our funds. One of the areas that concerns me deeply is there is a movement by President Bush to send money directly to the states for the Block Grants. Another level of bureaucracy, someone 100 miles away, is deciding for Fort Wayne how many dollars they should get and what is the best way to spend those dollars.

If I could leave you a message in that area, take the message back that those monies need to continue to go to the communities in which previous years they have been alloted. We need more money so that less dollars can be spent on overhead through the welfare programs and can be used then for other types of social service.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak. I know I have carried on here, so forgive me.

[The prepared statement of Rev. Vernon R. Graham appears at the conclusion of the hearing, see p. 79.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Mrs. Satterfield?

STATEMENT OF JANET SATTERFIELD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY HARVEST FOOD BANK

Ms. SATTERFIELD. My name is Janet Satterfield, and as executive director of Community Harvest Food Bank I do thank the committee for coming to Fort Wayne.

I am especially glad for the opportunity to thank Tony Hall and his staff who have helped over the past years share information that did enable us to establish Glean Indiana. We also got a U-pick bill passed thanks to their help and provided language for a prepared food bill that is now before the legislature.

Community Harvest helps provide part of the solution to hunger by rescuing food that can serve to help rescue the health and well-being of neighbors, young and old, who suffer from hunger.

Community Harvest not only gleans or rescues food from farmers and fields, but we pro-actively glean and rescue food from warehouses, grocers, anywhere there is wholesome and nutritious food. We cannot continue to live with the daily waste of food as long as there are those who live with the daily pain of hunger.

Community Harvest currently collects and distributes free of charge an excess of 4 million pounds yearly. That is over $7 million of food. This is channeled through neighborhood and community programs who help those whose only common denominator is hunger.

I would like to just depart a little bit from the written statement there and just say that I think one of the benefits of food banking as Community Harvest does and really trying to be waste watchers and make use of resources that already exist is that people feel good about saving. People feel good about saving their own resources. This can work both in urban and rural areas.

I had a minute to speak to Mrs. Ritchie here, and I said do you know that in Kendallville there are four pantries that help right there in your community. Her answer is I feel like I am begging if I go and ask. She said I feel like a mooch.

I think one of the reasons perhaps, Congressman Hall, that your friends and my friends do not believe that there are hungry people is because hungry people do not tell. The common denominator that we all have in times of need is that we have a lot of pride. We all want to help ourselves, and we want to do what we can. I think that is what has increased the availability of food that Community Harvest has gathered.

I find it incredible that when we started six years ago we collected 200,000 pounds. Now we are collecting more than 4 million. The harder we work, the more food we are able to pick up. It is interesting that as funds decrease available food increases.

What we have tried to do is develop technology that enables us to access products like meat and other frozen products that were not available before by having bar code scanners and things like that where we can handle just like the food industry product that would otherwise be wasted.

Because we do believe that the poor need a chance to fend for themselves, when it comes to putting food on the table we not only collect food for them, but we help them grow it. These are programs that I think can work in rural areas as well.

Community Harvest actively teaches gardening skills. We have community gardens. We involve tenants at low income housing units in developing gardens trying to keep the muskrats out and get youth to be involved in converting inner city vacant lots into productive gardens.

The power company now in Fort Wayne is donating access of their lands to Community Harvest to develop gardens, and we are even beginning wheelchair gardens. These are all things that I think serve as a backyard approach to hunger where people can feel a sense of self-sufficiency.

Because seniors are a special concern and they more than anybody have pride, a senior is the last person that wants to ask for food help. Seniorpak has been a wonderful program that gives food very quietly through a network of volunteers that delivers to homebound seniors.

Helen, one of the ladies that wrote, said receiving the food makes me feel more secure. It makes me feel worthy, not just the object of a have to project.

I think we really need your help in Washington to remove some of the stigma both from asking for help and needing help. We are the ones that do that. It is not the poor that put that on themselves. We who have are the ones sometimes that do that to others.

We are finding that in these programs there are some wonderful groups throughout the community and in our rural ten counties of northeast Indiana that are addressing hunger on a one on one approach. That seems to be the way that works best to not only utilize available food resources there, but show that food for all is not an empty dream. Food security can be available for our neighbors.

We have wonderful resources right here in our community of food that needs to be gathered. People need to feel good, and I think one suggestion might be to add some incentives for saving, incentives for gardening, incentives for utilizing lands that are otherwise going to waste, some incentives for networking in communities.

Information, particularly in the rural areas, is really hard to get, especially when people do not want to let each other know that they do need help. Even a central system where industries in rural areas could help disseminate the township trustees and the welfare department and could help disseminate some of the efforts that are being done very quietly by others so that we can offer food security, the taste of hope and allow each citizen to feel worthy.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Janet Satterfield appears at the conclusion of the hearing see p. 58.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. About the Seniorpak program, that sounds like a tremendous program. Do I understand that it does not come out of TEFAP?

Ms. SATTERFIELD. That program, with the exception of Karen White who is there who does it on a part-time hours basis—full-time effort/part-time hours—is totally done by volunteers.

She has exported that idea into the rural areas in the other counties. We have volunteers that come in, bag the groceries, and they are a full menu that includes everything from meat to vegetables. I know you have seen those bags, and those are delivered.

Karen has 110 volunteer drivers that give their own time and their gasoline to deliver those very quietly with dignity. It is a great program.

The CHAIRMAN. Where do you get your food?

Ms. SATTERFIELD. The food is all donated.

The CHAIRMAN. It is donated?

Ms. SATTERFIELD. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you have a drive for it or something?

Ms. SATTERFIELD. Interestingly enough, I think when food banking first started the food that was received was really damaged or a result of real gluts in the market. Because of the networking in food banking and our own improvement in resources—for example, we have five vehicles, refrigerated trucks, forklifts, all the equipment—that we can compete now and pick up higher volumes of food.

That food that we receive is incredibly good. I think we have Ben & Jerry's ice cream in the freezer. We have top of the line product. We have potatoes that come from Hilger's. Hilger's called and had potatoes, and we found a lot. The fire department came, washed off the potatoes, and we have actually had instances where we have distributed 20,000 pounds of potatoes within just 48 hours.

The CHAIRMAN. How is your gleaning program coming?

Ms. **Satterfield**. Well, our gleaning people are sitting in the back. It is wonderful. I think it is something that we really need to keep doing. It is available. There is good food out there.

One of the things that has resulted, with the gleaning now we not only go and glean after they have planted, we are giving them seeds to help out to make sure that there is product left to glean at the end of the year.

One seed company last year gave us 2,500 pounds of seed. These companies just will give seeds sometimes as their surplus, so we are gleaning from them. We have a planting seed company that gives plants. It is wonderful that we have the plant and seed give-aways.

It is interesting that people do want to help themselves. They do want to fend for themselves, but they need a little bit of help. Seniors need help tilling. One elderly lady said can you help me till my garden, and then I want to go from there. Sometimes people just need a little bit of help, a small amount of resources like seeds or plants, and then they want to take it from there.

The **Chairman**. Pastor Graham, in one of the first statements you made did you say 30,000 people ask for food every month?

Rev. **Graham**. And 30,000 people are going from agency to agency, from welfare office to food banks, asking for something every month, be it food, shelter, clothing, transportation, utilities, housing, whatever.

The **Chairman**. Are these the same 30,000 every month, or is it changing quite a bit every month?

Rev. **Graham**. We have found in the food bank programs —we keep records on each of the clients, again with the township trustee's office—that about a third of every month that we have had since 1980 have been new clients.

I talked yesterday to the people at the unemployment office, and they are starting an hour earlier and staying an hour later. A family might come in at 8:00 a.m. and still be there at 3:00 p.m.

We have nearly 8 percent unemployment in this county, but probably 12 to 15 percent in the black community, for work. Obviously those not looking for work or who do not qualify might double those figures.

The **Chairman**. You mentioned and a lot of people have mentioned today about the public/private partnership and where the public has stopped and the private has picked up. That is good. That is tremendous that that is happening here, but what does the government need to do? What improvements would you suggest to us?

Rev. **Graham**. To help I think there are four or five of them. I listed two or three to you, but I will go back through them.

I think we need to have, as Joe said, more of those government commodities, more of the meats and the types of proteins that will make a difference. We have had lots of cheese, we have had a lot of flour, we have had a lot of cornmeal, but if you do not have the other stuff to go with it or we have such a small percentage being in those areas that would help tremendously, just an increase in the number of meat products, milk, whatever. I think that is something you probably have control over or at least you can deal with.

Second, I think there needs to be more money set aside for social service parts of the Block Grants. I am not certain how that works on the national level, but locally if there is a 5 percent level that is set nationally that is what we do locally. I think that needs to increase.

There are many wonderful programs that need to be funded that are not. There are good programs like two that you are sitting hearing about here that need more funding.

A third thing is I think you need to keep that from going to the state level. It needs to be kept here in the community. Nearly every social service agency in town has written letters to our senators, and Jill, I think you have probably been flooded with those, too, saying keep that on the local level rather than on the state level.

I think those are three or four things that can be done. The partnerships are important, however, because there always are going to be those people that fall through the cracks.

We received some money, for example, from the Stewart B. McKinley funds, and we use those dollars for a number of programs, but one of them is rather special, the Children Feeding Children Program, that I did not mention before where we take Boy Scout groups and Cub Scout groups and young people's groups from our churches and whatever, and they put together food packages and put them in backpacks. More importantly, they give them hope.

I think every program you have heard of today in the private sector and those you have not heard of try to bring a sense of hope and dignity to people. As they have said, if you have ever sat in one of the waiting rooms with the 60 to 80 to 100 people just crowding in, there is no hope. There is no dignity there. The private sector programs have been more readily acceptable I think because of the hope and the dignity.

The Children Feeding Children, we hope to train our children in our middle class homes to care for our community. They then take those backpacks to the children and give them a hug and give them a sense of hope and a sense of dignity. These are some of the types of projects your funds are going for with the Block Grant.

The CHAIRMAN. Jill.

Ms. LONG. I think we have probably asked this question of every panel, and I want to make sure that we get a response from both of you. Rev. Graham, you have been involved in your program for a little over 10 years, and you have for about seven years, Ms. Satterfield.

How have your clients changed? What is different about clients today than in your case 10 years ago and seven years ago in terms of employment?

Rev. GRAHAM. As I said before, initially we were seeing transients, probably about 10 percent of our population that we are seeing, and this includes rural and urban because we have food banks in Monroeville and Harlan and each of the rural communities in Allen County—not the other counties, but Allen County.

We find now that about 60 percent of those are working poor, people who have jobs at sometimes $4, $5 or $6 an hour. There are $20 jobs an hour in Fort Wayne. There are minimum wage jobs, but the jobs between $7 and $10 an hour are vacant. They are not here. The smallest percentage would be in that area, but that is the area, at least $8 I have been told, it takes to make it and not be on welfare. I think that also has been important to us.

Another misconception, Jill, I think is if I would go to a normal, as you said before, group not like this, maybe a church group, and say what percentage of the people that we serve at the food banks do you think in a year are black, for example, or minority, the answer would be 80 to 90 percent.

In reality over the entire 10 years our numbers have varied between 59 and 61 percent have been from the white community, and the other 31 percent have been from the black community, another misconception I think the public has because they want to have it, when in reality the entire community is suffering and not just a specific economic or a social or a racial group.

Ms. SATTERFIELD. I think one of the things that we have seen is people who are working not at one job, but two and three jobs to try to make it on the minimum wage.

The other thing I think is a large group that is going unnoticed, and that is the group of drug damaged individuals, both men and women, many of them very young. They are mothering and fathering. They are not trainable. They are going to be with us a long time, and they need food every day. This group is certainly growing, as is the group of elderly.

As companies begin laying off people at a younger and younger age that group of what we call seniors is getting closer to my age every day. This group is also a group that is getting harder and harder to retrain or to find jobs for, so I think those are the two areas.

The other group that we are seeing are the single mothers, too.

As far as the homeless, I think what we see more are people who are roamers—what I call roamers. They are not so much homeless, but they are transients like the lady that came from out of town to look for a job here. She stays with somebody else, and she is kind of in transition. These people when they are waiting live with other people then who have the burden of trying to stretch those food dollars for them.

Ms. LONG. Rev. Graham?

Rev. GRAHAM. Janet triggered a thought that of the 3200 homeless people in Allen County in various forms of definition according to the 1990 census, two-thirds of those are children. We, too, have seen the change from the single male transients to the children.

Not everybody was homeless, not everybody was hungry, has a mental illness problem or has a drug or alcohol dependency. There are a good number of those, but they are children. They are elderly. They are your parents and my parents. They are your loved ones and neighbors and my loved ones and neighbors.

The tragedy is we live in the greatest nation in all of the planet earth from the very beginning of time, and yet our attention seems to always be focused elsewhere.

I am not certain if Lyndon Johnson might not have been able to deal with the war on poverty if he did not have to fight an Asian war at the same time, but it is time again to fight a war and bring together all of the strengths and all of the minds and all of the resources we have, and that is a war on poverty and a war on our own people because we need to lift them and to help them and to train them and to work with them—not do to them, but do with them.

That is exciting. Either the glass is half or half full. To me it is a challenge, but it is a challenge that needs a partnership. I know you are far away from Washington, but you hold the key to that challenge. I guess we would beseech you to carry that message for all of us back there to your colleagues.

Ms. SATTERFIELD. I would just like to ask for any suggestions you might have or ideas as an educator on how to change some of the real attitudes of disregard for our resources because I think when we really disregard food, nutrition—we even need to change the word. That word itself has a stigma.

We just have a total uncaring attitude for many of these things. To disregard our great resource of food I think is to disregard the men, children and seniors who need that food to live.

We have a little boy that came into the warehouse one day. He brought two strawberries in a little bag from home. Another child had taped his 40 cents of lunch money. That teacher was trying to teach them to save.

After they had worked in one of our lots we offered to give the students something to drink, and the teacher said no, they need to learn that that food has been saved for somebody else.

I think anything we can do from an educational standpoint to really be concerned about the resources that we do have where we find where this other money is going to come from would be very helpful.

Ms. LONG. I have no other questions, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Again we want to thank you for your testimony, for your information, and as many others have testified, for your really good work. I really appreciate it. I do not represent the district, but I know that Jill does. I appreciate what you are doing. I appreciate many of the things that are going on here and how people respond to hunger.

I think that you point out some important things we need to do, and I think one of them is to do a better job of building a constituency for the poor and for the hungry in this country. We have not built a constituency. We can talk to one another, but that is not a constituency. A constituency is outside this room.

Education is really a key here. I think when people start to find out—really find out—about what is going on in this country, what is going on in your counties, they are going to start paying attention. I believe that. I know it happens in my own district. I know it is happening here when I listen to you.

Obviously the private groups are starting to participate. We need them because this is not all the responsibility of the government. This is the responsibility of the citizens here. They need to be brought together and motivated, and that is a big job. We need to educate them.

Hopefully part of this is not only to educate us, especially me, about hunger in rural areas, but really to come here and to bring some exposure to the whole issue of hunger and what really is going on here. It is tragic. It is not going to get any better unless we change it.

I would just like to say in coming to the end here, actually we are right on the button here at 3:00 p.m. I want to extend the committee's appreciation from the Members and to Jill Long and her staff for working with us and setting this whole hearing up.

We want to thank also the many providers and advocates for all the assistance that you have provided in making this hearing possible, and I want to thank all of you here that did not participate but came to really just be present and to help and lend your encouragement to this issue.

We have heard what is both informative and compelling testimony today, and I know that I have been better educated on the barriers that confront families and single persons in rural communities trying to feed themselves. Hearing the human aspect behind the reports and statistics gives us the inspiration and the information we need to share today's findings with our colleagues in Washington.

Before adjourning the hearing I would like to announce to our witnesses and others present that the hearing record will remain open for two weeks to accommodate the inclusion of any additional statements or materials you may wish to submit.

I would like to ask Congresswoman Long if she has any closing statements or anything further she would like to say.

Ms. LONG. I also want to echo the Chairman's sentiments in thanking the staff of the Hunger Committee. So many hours go into putting a hearing like this together.

I also want to thank the minority ranking Member, Congressman Bill Emerson from Missouri, who had to be in his own district but sent a very capable staff person, Cathy Schuchart, here today to make sure that everything went as smoothly as possible.

I really want to thank those of you who testified and those of you who share such a strong interest in fighting hunger in our community and in our country and I think even internationally. There is a wonderful showing of support here for this hearing today. As the representative of the Fourth Congressional District I really appreciate the efforts of the many people in our community.

I also want to thank my staff who put in long hours and certainly thank Chairman Hall for taking time from his own district work to come to the Fourth District.

I hope that by working together and bringing together private resources, as well as public resources, that we will be able to do a better job. I believe that is going to happen, and it is because of the work and the input of people like those of you who are here today that it will happen. I thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Before concluding I just want to say I have some very good friends here in Fort Wayne. They are right back there, and I want them to stand up. I hope you know them. Stand up, Marta. These are good friends of mine. They have been good friends of my family, and they visit us often.

I am very, very glad to be here, and this concludes the meeting. Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 3:13 p.m., the hearing was concluded.]

[Material submitted for inclusion in the record follows:]

OPENING STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN TONY P. HALL

CHAIRMAN, HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER

APRIL 5, 1991

GOOD AFTERNOON. AS YOU KNOW, MY NAME IS TONY HALL AND I AM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER. THE COMMITTEE IS HOLDING THIS HEARING TODAY IN FT. WAYNE AT THE REQUEST OF CONGRESSWOMAN JILL LONG. WE ARE HONORED TO BE HERE AND GRATEFUL TO JILL FOR BRINGING US TO NORTHEAST INDIANA. WE ARE VERY LUCKY TO HAVE JILL AS A MEMBER OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER. SHE IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE WHO IS VERY COMMITTED TO FIGHTING HUNGER IN NORTHEAST INDIANA, IN THE NATION, AND AROUND THE GLOBE. IT IS A PLEASURE TO SERVE WITH HER ON THE COMMITTEE AND IN THE CONGRESS.

SINCE IT WAS CREATED IN 1984, THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER HAS TRAVELLED AROUND THE COUNTRY TO INVESTIGATE HUNGER AND POVERTY PROBLEMS. THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN TO INNER-CITY NEIGHBORHOODS. WE HAVE VISITED INDIAN RESERVATIONS. AND WE HAVE BEEN TO MIDDLE-CLASS SUBURBS WHERE MOST PEOPLE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THEY HAD NEIGHBORS WHO WERE HUNGRY.

TODAY, OUR MISSION IS TO EXAMINE THE PROBLEM OF HUNGER IN RURAL AMERICA. WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEMS ARE HERE. WE WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT IS WORKING AND WHAT ISN'T. AND WE ALSO WANT TO FIND OUT IF WHAT IS WORKING IN THE CITY OF FT. WAYNE CAN WORK IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.

LAST YEAR A REPORT ON SHOPPING FOR FOOD IN RURAL AMERICA FOUND THAT POOR NUTRITION, AND THE HEALTH PROBLEMS THAT FOLLOW, ARE COMMON AMONG LOW-INCOME PERSONS IN RURAL AREAS. ANOTHER REPORT FOUND THAT POVERTY RATES AMONG WORKING FAMILIES ARE MUCH HIGHER IN RURAL THAN IN URBAN AREAS. SO EVEN WITH A FULL-TIME JOB, SOMEONE MAY STILL GO HUNGRY.

BUT WE'RE HERE TODAY BECAUSE BEHIND THESE REPORTS ARE THE STORIES OF HUNGRY PEOPLE. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM THE PEOPLE WHO WORK WITH THEM, AND FROM THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES. WE WANT THE PEOPLE OF NORTHEAST INDIANA TO TELL US WHY HUNGER IS A PROBLEM IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

WE HOPE THAT WHAT WE LEARN HERE TODAY IN FT. WAYNE WILL GIVE US A BETTER SENSE OF WHAT WE NEED TO DO IN WASHINGTON TO FIGHT HUNGER AND POVERTY IN RURAL COMMUNITIES ACROSS AMERICA.

ONE HUNDRED SECOND CONGRESS
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CHAIRMAN

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FACT SHEET

Food Assistance in Rural Communities: Problems, Prospects, and Ideas from Urban Programs

April 5, 1991
Fort Wayne, Indiana

The Fourth District of Indiana is comprised of ten counties: Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Jay, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wells, and Whitley. The total population of the Fourth District is 553,698. The Fourth District is predominantly rural, and its largest city is Fort Wayne, with a population of 168,147.

According to the findings of the Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project (CCHIP) survey released in March 1991, in Indiana almost 24 percent of families with children under age 12 are hungry or at-risk of hunger. According to the Indiana State Board of Health, six of the ten leading causes of death in Indiana are related to nutrition, and 1.2 percent of the State population are victims of nutrition-related diseases (heart disease, cancer, stroke, diseases of the arteries, diabetes, and cirrhosis of the liver). The Board conlcluded that the two main reasons for hunger and malnutrition in Indiana are lack of money to buy nutritious foods and lack of sound nutrition information and education to make appropriate nutritional choices.

Seven of the ten Federally-administered, State operated nutrition programs in Indiana provide direct food assistance or vouchers to purchase food. Three programs offer nutrition education for the purpose of improving nutritional choice and thus one's individual diet. But these programs are unable to provide adequate benefits to all persons in need. By Indiana statute, the responsibility of addressing "poor relief" in the state lies with each elected Township Trustee. It is the Trustee who can issue "vouchers", which are primarily a source of emergency assistance, to needy families. Problems may occur, however, when there are not enough funds to issue vouchers. Further, not all supermarkets are required to accept vouchers; and for those that do, the Township Trustee cannot always gaurantee the supermarket will be reimbursed. Finally, the eligibility requirements to receive vouchers varies from one township to the next. Combined, these restrictions can leave rural needy families with few alternatives, for transportation costs may prohibit a family from accesing benefits outside the township or county.

Despite the number and extent of public programs, a significant gap exists between those persons served and those persons needing assistance. In the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), 160,000 women, infants, and children are potentially eligible to participate in the program, but only about 70,000 persons are currently enrolled. In the Food Stamp Program, an estimated 65,000 persons are eligible to receive benefits, but only about 21,000 people receive them. According to a 1990 national report released by Public Voice for Food and Health Policy, food stamp benefits are not adequate to purchase the foods necessary for a minimally adequate diet for persons living in persistently poor rural America. Public Voice also found that the availability of fresh fruits, vegetables, and meats is extremely limited in the small/medium stores throughout rural America. About one in every four elderly Hoosiers is living at the poverty level, and only about 20,000 out of 160,000 low-income elderly are receiving meals through publicly funded meal programs.

Because public programs are unable--again, usually because of insufficient funding--to provide adequate services and benefits to those in need, low-income perons must depend on the private sector for assistance. Private programs and public/private partnerships have been formed to fill the gaps, yet they too are overwhelmed with the increasing demand for services.

FACTS - 4TH DISTRICT

Population statistics for the 4th District of Indiana:[1]

total population - 553,698
white - 94%
black - 5%
other - 1%
Spanish origin - 1%
age 18 and under - 69%
age 65 and over - 10%
Median Age - 29 years

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[1] Politics in America, 1990, Congressional Quarterly.

Statistics from 1980:[2]

Indiana
median family income in 1980 was $20,535
33.6% did not complete high school
12.5% graduated from high school

Adams County
median family income was $20,353
residents age 25 and older had a median of 12.3 years of schooling
33.6% did not complete high school
8.5% graduated from college

Allen County
median family income was $22,160
residents age 25 and older had a median of 12.6 years of schooling
26.7% did not complete high school
15.0% graduated from college

DeKalb County
median family income was $20,726
residents age 25 and older had a median of 12.4 years of schooling
31.7% did not complete high school
8.5% graduated from college

Huntington County
median family income was $19,777
residents age 25 and older had a median of 12.4 years of schooling
28.8% did not complete high school
10.3% graduated from college

Jay County
median family income was $17,198
residents age 25 and older had a median of 12.2 years of schooling
40% did not complete high school
6.9% graduated from college

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[2] Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. Data from 1990 Census has not yet been released.

LaGrange County
median family income was $17,000
residents age 25 and older had a median of 12.1 years of schooling
47.4% did not complete high school
6.9% graduated from college

Noble County
median family income was $18,828
residents age 25 and older had a median of 12.3 years of schooling
36.6% did not complete high school
7.4% graduated from college

Steuben County
median family income was $18,814
residents age 25 and older had a median of 12.4 years of schooling
28.1% did not complete high school
9.7% graduated from college

Wells County
median family income was $20,578
residents age 25 and older had a median of 12.4 years of schooling
31% did not complete high school
8.9% graduated from college

Whitley County
median family income was $20,534
residents age 25 and older had a median of 12.4 years of schooling
28.7% did not complete high school
7.2% graduated from college

Infant Mortality

Average infant death rates from 1982-1986 (per 1,000 live births):[3]

Adams	8.3	Noble	12.4
Allen	11.3	Steuben	11.6
DeKalb	10.7	Wells	9.5
Huntington	10.9	Whitley	10.6
Jay	7.2	Indiana	11.2
La Grange	12.1		

37 states had infant mortality rates lower than the rate in Indiana in 1986, which was 11.2 deaths per 1,000 live births.

AFDC

Percentage of population receiving AFDC assistance:[4]

Adams	1.1	LaGrange	0.6
Allen	2.5	Noble	0.8
DeKalb	0.6	Steuben	0.6
Huntington	1.0	Wells	0.8
Jay	1.6	Whitley	0.5
Indiana	2.8		

Food Stamp Program

Percentage of population participating in Food Stamp program:[5]

Adams	3.1	LaGrange	1.8
Allen	4.8	Noble	2.3
DeKalb	1.5	Steuben	2.8
Huntington	2.8	Wells	2.1
Jay	6.2	Whitley	1.4
Indiana	5.7		

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[3] Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service.

[4] Creating A System That Works For Everyone, Indiana Department of Public Welfare, Fiscal Year 1990 Annual Report.

[5] Creating A System That Works For Everyone.

Medicaid

Percentage of population enrolled in Medicaid program:[6]

Adams	2.5	LaGrange	1.7
Allen	4.2	Noble	2.1
DeKalb	2.0	Steuben	2.0
Huntington	2.4	Wells	2.3
Jay	4.4	Whitley	1.8
Indiana	4.9		

WIC

WIC caseloads for September of 1989:[7]

Adams	638	LaGrange	325
Allen	4,832	Noble	317
DeKalb	288	Steuben	282
Huntingtton	626	Wells	447
Jay	696	Whitley	309

Approximately 63 percent of the population of the Fourth District participates in the WIC program compared to 54% nationally.

The Elderly

The Northeast Area III Council on Aging has 34 site locations in its 9 county area. 1600-1800 meals are served daily: Over 900 home delivered meals are served daily, and over 900 Congregate meals are served daily. Their 1990 statistics follow:

	Congregate	Home Delivered
Adams	4,132	13,823
Allen	69,700	112,729
DeKalb	14,455	18,153
Huntington	11,643	11,206
LaGrange	7,079	5,850
Noble	8,569	11,271
Steuben	18,967	5,223
Wells	10,207	8,918
Whitley	14,543	14,561
Total	159,295	201,734

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[6] Creating A System That Works For Everyone.

[7] Fiscal Year 1989, Selected Facts & Figures, Indiana State Board of Health.

FACTS - INDIANA

The estimated poverty rate in 1985 was 12.0%, and the estimated number of poor was 660,000.[8]

Food Assistance Programs

A list of the public food assistance and nutrition support programs in Indiana and the numbers of people they served in 1989 is listed below. Approximately 127,000 Hoosiers are not enrolled in food assistance programs for which they qualify.[9]

Programs	People served
Food Stamps	286,952/year
WIC	160,337/year
Congregate Meals for the elderly	112,000/year
Home Delivered for the elderly	66,000/year
National School Lunch Program (74% paid, 4% reduced, 21% free)	565,000 per day
National School Breakfast Program (18% paid, 4% reduced, 78% free)	45,000 per year
Summer Food Service Program	17,000/day
Child Care Food Program	51,000/day
Expanded Food Nutrition Education Program	25,000/year

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[8] The 1985 state and national poverty rates, the latest available, were calculated by the Institute on Research and Poverty (Madison, Wisconsin). These estimates are not official government estimates but should be more accurate than the latest available government estimates, which are from the 1980 Census. County data were not calculated by the Institute. The Institute estimates the poverty rate by comparing the money income of a family (or unrelated individuall, a one-person family) to its corresponding poverty line. If income is below the poverty line, then all the persons in that family are counted as poor.

[9] Indiana Plan For Health, sixth edition, Indiana State Board of Health, 1991.

Other Programs[10]

AFDC benefits as percentage of poverty line (for a three-person family without any other income - Maximum AFDC grant is $288/month)	35%
Combined AFDC and food stamp benefits as a percentage of poverty line (for a three-person family without anyother income - Combined maximum benefit is $548/month)	67%
Medicaid inocme eligibility limit as percentage of poverty line (for a three-person family)	35%
Percentage of unemployed receiving unemployment insurance, 1986[11]	24.4%

The Elderly[12]

	1988	estimated by year 2000
% of Indiana population age 65 and older	11.8	12
number of poor in Indiana age 65 and older	656,310	698,580

	congregate	home delivered	total
% of the elderly participating in meal programs in 1988	7.3	2.4	12.4
number of the elderly participating in meal programs in 1988	112,000	337,000	66,000

Currently, about 70 adult day care centers exist in Indiana. They are unevenly located throughout the State with most being in urban areas. Uneven distribution leaves many areas of the State without available programs and services for older impaired adults. In 1988, 1,246 of the 819,166 adults age 60 and over were enrolled in adult day care centers in Indiana[13]

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[10] 1990 Green Book, House Committee on Ways and Means.

[11] Holes in the Safety Nets, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Washington, D.C., Spring 1988.

[12] Indiana Plan For Health, 1990. These figures are based solely on public meal programs and do not include figures from privately run programs.

[13] Indiana Plan For Health, 1991.

Access to Food Stores[14]

	Rural IN	Rural USA	Urban IN	Urban USA
Average Number of Supermarkets Per County	4.2	3.8	15.8	29.2
Average Number of Square Miles Per Supermarket	92.2	24.7	265.3	27.3

The Children[15]

	Indiana	United States
% of families with children under 12 who are hungry	10.4	12.3
number of hungry children under 12 years	121,279	5,502,014
% of children under 12 who are hungry	12.0	12.8
% of families with children under 12 who are hungry or at-risk of hunger	23.7	27.6
number of children less than 12 who are hungry or at risk of hunger	257,034	11,514,515
% of children less than 12 who are hungry or at risk of hunger	25.3	26.8
number of children under 12	1,014,814	42,890,351

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[14] Higher Prices, Fewer Choices, Public Voice For Food And Health Policy, 1990.

[15] Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project study conducted by the Food Research and Action Center, 1991, Washington, D.C.

INDIANA COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS
P. O. BOX 843
JEFFERSONVILLE, IN 47130
(812) 284-1129

The Homeless of Indiana are diverse in nature, they are comprised of three major urban pockets: Indianapolis; Fort Wayne; and Evansville; and the rest of the state is primarily rural in nature.

The rural homeless face many barriers alien to the urban homeless, among them: accessibility and availability of services; a lack of emergency/temporary shelter; transportation; medical assistance; employment potential; and little access to permanent rental property. The rural homeless of Indiana will often live with relatives, in state parks, or in some cases in chicken coops.

Because of the diverse nature of our state, services are inconsistent across the state, and because Indiana is largely rural the plight of the homeless has remained somewhat "hidden" from public view. Many small communities do not accept the fact that homelessness exists in their community therefore little or no commitment is made on the local or state level, primarily because lawmakers from those communities are not aware of the increasing number of homeless.

Indiana currently makes no dollar commitment in the homeless movement at all even though there is an identifiable population of at least 30,000 Hoosiers (snap shot survey done by Indiana CAP Directors Association) which means there could be as many as 60,000 Hoosiers without housing or in marginally housed living situations. The McKinney Dollars that are made available to the State of Indiana through the Indiana Department of Human Service Emergency Shelter Grant number $817,000 this year and already over $2 million has been requested, many homeless will not be served.

The homeless of Indiana must be identified and worked within their local areas, many relocate to the more urban areas because of the availability of jobs and services, when they go they go alone, leaving whatever support system existed at home. Homelessness is a dilema that has the potential to reach epidemic proportions, without assistance from both the state and federal government for the creation of housing and programs to assist the homeless Indiana will soon be "caught up" with the rest of the nation in its crisis with the homeless.

Barbara Anderson
Barbara Anderson
Chairperson, Indiana Coalition for the Homeless
April 5, 1991

CLOTHES & FOOD BASKET
OF LaGRANGE COUNTY, INC.
P.O. BOX 172
LaGRANGE, IN 46761

April 2, 1991

The Clothes & Food Basket of LaGrange County has served food (staples, eggs, meat, vegetables, fruit, milk, paper products, cleaning supplies) and clothing (for men, women, and children), toys (for children), household items, bedding and blankets (500 sets of sheets and 800 blankets) throughout 1990 and continues to see an increase in needy clients in 1991.

Clients served during :

Dec 1989 (open 10 days)	Dec 1990 (open 15 days)
218 families	316 families
786 individuals	1182 individuals
386 children	578 children
90 Sr Cit	91 Sr Cit

We began to see a steady increase in need last August 1990 and it has continued:

Oct 1990	Nov 1990
101 families	87 families
329 individuals	326 individuals

Jan 1991	Feb 1991	Mar 1991
146 families	114 families	families
545 individuals	420 individuals	individuals

We are open to serve clients 2 days each week (Mondays & Thursdays, 9 - 2:30). We are currently trying to get sufficient staff and volunteers to remain open until 6pm on Thursdays to help accomodate the working poor, of which we have many. Our current hours do not meet their need.

CLOTHES & FOOD BASKET
OF LaGRANGE COUNTY, INC.
P.O. BOX 172
LaGRANGE, IN 46761

CLOTHES & FOOD BASKET GUIDELINES

I. The Clothes & Food Basket is a non-profit, emergency assistance organization, funded solely by donations, having no paid staff. We exist to help the needy of our community.

II. Those eligible:
- A. The needy of LaGrange County
- B. The needy out of county residents who have children attending one of the LaGrange County Schools
- C. Transients (one time service only)

III. Procedures:
- A. Applicant must obtain a referral from:
  Township Trustee, Church Pastor, or Social Service Agency
  1. The agency issuing the referral is to determine the need based on the agency's guidelines.
  of LaGrange County
- B. Upon presenting the referral to the Clothes & Food Basket, the applicant must complete the necessary paperwork.
- C. The Clothes & Food Basket will use the above paperwork to develop a report for the Township Trustees.

IV. Services provided:
- A. Clothing, to the extent available
- B. Food, to the extent available
- C. Cash is never given to any client
- D. Service will be provided to eligible clients every other month

V. Those not eligible or disqualified:
- A. Those not in need
- B. Non-residents of LaGrange County who do not have children attending school in one of the LaGrange County Schools.
- C. Those misusing the services provided by the Clothes & Food Basket.
  Examples of misuse but not all:
  1. Misrepresentation of qualifications
  2. Misrepresentation of needs
  3. Selling of items supplied by Clothes & Food Basket
  4. Abusive language or conduct while on the Clothes & Food Basket premises

April 2, 1991

Betty Oakley
Parkside Corp. Office
LaGrange, IN 46761

Dear Betty,

Pat Kennedy informed me that you are going to Indianapolis the 5th of April. We are so glad you are representing us. You will be an excellent speaker for our agency.

I'm not quite sure what I can share with you on the Sr. Co-op, so will list some stats.

As of March, we are beginning our 4th year.

Our support, financially, is through $2.00 annual membership fees and aluminum can donation monies.

We have averaged $1,000.00 per year on aluminum reimbursements! (I believe this was a Betty O. idea!!)

Our support, food-wise, comes from our three local grocers. We received approximately 4 ton!! of outdated fruit, vegetables, breads, and miscellaneous items, in 1990.

Our main bread & outdated sweets come from the Elkhart Sr. co-op. Rose Cowley gave us a monthly tally of poundage and the total January thru December of 1990 was 26, 452 pounds!!! Over 13 ton!!! That surely would have helped fill the landfills! rather than humans.

A few co-op members have gardens and donate extras to the co-op, during garden time.

Our average seniors served per week:

1987	52
1988	85
1989	91
1990	94
1991	90's

Most of our members (125?) are very grateful for the bag of grocery items received weekly.

We give 1/2 doz of eggs monthly.

We also have items purchased from Community Harvest Food Bank, at 12¢ per pound, on occasion

April 2, 1991
Page 2

The Sr. Co-Op is operated entirely by super volunteers! The average age of our volunteers is 80!! I feel very young at 39!

The volunteers sort, clean & trim, package and display the outdated items.

Even the "green" bread and rotten produce & trimmings find homes with a farm volunteer and bird lovers!

I hope this information has been a help to you in making your presentation for the Senior Citizen's Food Co-Op. Your vision has definitely become a reality.

We hope and pray for your continuing recovery!

Sincerely,

Sandy ♡
Sandy Frank
Co-Coordinator
Clothes & Food Basket
Sr. Citizen's Co-Op

COMMUNITY & FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

Report on Food/Nutrition Needs of Low-Income Families

April 4, 1991

Since 1965, Community and Family Services, Inc. (CFS) has assisted low-income families with emergency food and nutrition needs. The agency provides these services in six counties:

ADAMS
BLACKFORD
JAY
HUNTINGTON
RANDOLPH
WELLS

Food and nutritional needs are met primarily in three ways:

1) Administration or coordination of county food pantry/food bank operations.

2) Commodity distributions

3) Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program

FOOD PANTRY/FOOD BANK

CFS administers Food Pantries in three counties - Jay, Blackford and Randolph. The attached report describes the increasing need for families. In 1990, over 700 families were served. In 1991 thus far, the trend indicates over 400 families are being served monthly, with an additional 40 new families each month. Thus, 480 new and 400 on-going served totals up to a projected 900 families in these three counties for 1991.

In the agency's northern counties - Adams, Huntington and Wells - coordination occurs with local food pantry operations.

Adams - Operation HELP Food Pantry
Huntington - LOVE, Inc.
Wells - Wells County Food and Utility Bank

These operations report the following monthly use of clients:

	ON-GOING	NEW
Adams	65	10-20
Huntington	100	20-30
Wells	135	20-30
TOTAL	300	50-80

One significant experience has been the increase of need during periods of unemployment in these counties. Many of these counties are typically in the highest tier of unemployment rates in the State of Indiana.

COMMODITIES

In 1990, CFS administered commodity distribution in the six counties to nearly 600 families. Over 1200 units of commodities were distributed. A significant note is that nearly 600 volunteers participated in the distributions, held at over 30 sites throughout the six counties.

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) PROGRAM

In 1990, over 12,000 food vouchers were issued by CFS's WIC programs in eight counties (Wabash and Miami Counties are also served). The current caseload is up to 6800 families, an increase of 500 families since August 1990.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES, INC. - FOOD PANTRIES

JAY COUNTY

Helping Hand Food Bank
518 S. Wayne St.
Portland, In 47371
219-726-9318

Serves 250 to 300 families each month

Averages 10 new families each month

Blackford County

Community and Family Services Center
206 W. Main
Hartford City, In. 47348
317-348-0744

Serves 25 to 40 families each month

Averages 10 new families each month

Randolph County

Community and Family Services Center
127 N. Main St.
Winchester, In 47394
317- 584-7222

Serves 75 to 100 families each month

Averages 20 new families each month

In the past four years the number of families asking for food supplements havecontinually increased. Each month we serve new families that have never been assisted before. Some are new to the area, but most are experiencing adverse circumstances.

All applicants are referred to Food Stamps as their continual source of food. However, many struggle trying to feed large families with ever increasing food prices and therefore need to be supplemented each month.

In the summer when the children are not in school and do not receive free school lunches, the financial burden is even greater. Only one county in our service area serves "Summer Lunch for Children". Jay County school system provides free lunch in the parks for the children in the summer. This assistance not only stretches the food dollar but also assures that the children are eating a balanced meal at least once a day.

Senior citizens and handicapped persons are also in need of supplemental food assistance. Rising utility costs and high medical bills take most of the meager income that they receive. Many have expressed to us that the process required to apply for Food Stamps is not worth the small amount of Food Stamps that they might receive. Many are eligible for only $10.00 worth. Of course we encourage themto apply in spite of the paperwork involved.

Food sources to supply the food pantries are sought out from many areas. At present we receive food and other necessities from the following:

- U.S.D.A.Commodities
- FEMA Funds
- East Central Regional Indiana FoodBank
- Peyton's Northern
- Marsh Food Stores
- Boy Scout Food Drive
- County Farmers
- Churches
- Private Donations
- Community Projects

The need far outweighs the supply.

Marie Evans, Area Coordinator

REPORT ON SERVICE: FOOD PANTRY
SERVICE AREA: All Sites
AGENCY: COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SER. PERIOD: 01/01/90 TO 12/31/90

Characteristics	Number Of Persons
Age	
0-5	0
6-14	0
15-21	95
22-44	461
45-54	75
55 +	82
Ethnicity/Race	
White, Not Hispanic	695
Black, Not Hispanic	0
Hispanic	16
Native American:	1
Asian	1
Other	0
Education	
0-8th Grade	105
9-12th Grade	299
H.S. Grad/G.E.D.	232
Post Secondary	60
Not Known	17
Gender	
Male	188
Female	525
Source of Income	
Employment	310
Unemployment	54
A.F.D.C.	107
Home Relief	1
Other	178

Characteristics	Number of Persons
Source (Cont.)	
S.S.I	62
Soc. Secur.	125
Food Stamps	79
Medicaid	187
Level of Poverty	
Less than 75%	427
Less than 100%	145
Less than 125%	80
Less than 150%	30
Greater than 150%	31
Household Type	
Single Person	109
Single Parent (fem)	172
Single Parent (mal)	16
Two Parent	300
Other	116
Disabled	
Yes	80
Persons Served	713
Including Family	2,325
Homeless	6
Including Family	14

Total Units Provided 1,584

NOTE: Blackford, Jay
and Randolph
Counties

INDIANA DEPARTMENT ON AGING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS PROGRESS REPORT
PARTS A & B

GRANTEE	GRANTEE NUMBER	DATE SUBMITTED
Community and Family Services, Inc.	38-90R-1564	2/28/91

FINAL CUMULATIVE ANNUAL REPORT, 1990

A. TOTAL AGENCY STAFFING

TYPE OF POSITIONS	COMMOD.	CSBG	SAFE	WX	DIVIDED TIME / INDIRECT	OTHER	TOTAL
FULL TIME POSITIONS				6	13	109	128
TEMPORARY POSITIONS			1			1	2
VOLUNTEERS	590	574				163	1,327
TOTAL	590	574	1	6	13	273	1,457

B. CLIENTS ASSISTED BY MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORY

PROGRAM CATEGORY	ELDERLY	HANDI-CAPPED	MIGRANTS	FEMALE HEAD OF HOUSE	OTHER LOW INCOME	NON LOW INCOME	TOTAL
EMPLOYMENT	34	69	8	98	1,566	158	1,933
EDUCATION		3	8	146	1,021	2	1,180
CONSUMERISM / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT							
WEATHERIZATION	84	34	4	54	446		622
HOUSING	33	10		6	76		125
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE	63	36	170	77	907		1,253
USE OF OTHER PROGRAMS	1,565	933	174	1,036	10,734		14,442
SAFE OUTREACH	1,199	446	24	563	3,800		6,032
STARVATION / MALNUTRITION WIC	-	715	77	3,706	1,583	5,970	12,051
SURPLUS COMMODITIES	11,829	1,011	14	4,601	14,439		31,894
HEALTH SERVICES					449		449
TOTAL	14,807	3,257	479	10,287	35,021	6,130	69,981

Community Harvest Food Bank
P.O. Box 10967 Fort Wayne, IN 46855 (219) 427-1264
1717 South Lafayette Street Fort Wayne, IN 46803

Executive Director
Janet E. Satterfield

Officers
James Carlton Etzler
Etzler Advertising
President

St[illegible] J. Turnwald
Food Marketing
Vice President

Wayne J. Hall
Lincoln National Bank
2nd Vice President

Josephine K. Rothberg
Community Volunteer
Secretary

Sue E. Haycox
Central Soya
Assistant Secretary

Michael Kranisky
North American Van Lines
Treasurer

Directors

Richard Bowlin
Allen County Motors

Virginia Clark
Community Volunteer

Donald P. Eckrich
Retired

Michael L. Edington
Lincoln National Corporation

Liliana Huneck
Community Volunteer

Wil[illegible] A. Kratzert, Jr.
F[illegible]yne Country Club

Jon Lassus
Lassus Bros. Oil Company

Brian Mackay
Pillsbury

Margaret Miller
Community Volunteer

Court R. Newcomb
H.J. Bodey

Barbara Nussa
City of Fort Wayne

Ruth Russell
Community Volunteer

Leigh A. Smith
Benefit Consultants

Roger A. Steup
Standard Federal Bank

Advisory Council
David Fairchild, PhD.
Charles M. Frankhouser, M.D.
Nancy A. Jordan, CPA
Thomas D. Logan
Carla McKeeman, CPA
Re[illegible]d Thomas O'Connor
Steven R. Shine
Senator John Sinks
Alan O. Wilson, DDS

April 5, 1991

TESTIMONY

FIELD HEARING

Hello, my name is Janet Satterfield. As Executive Director of Community Harvest Food Bank, I thank the Select Committee on Hunger for this opportunity to address hunger issues and give information on how Community Harvest helps reduce hunger.

Community Harvest helps provide a solution to hunger by rescuing available food donations that can rescue the lives of neighbors who live with the pain of hunger, both young and old.

Since beginning,in its full year of operation in 1984, Community Harvest has rescued and distributed, free of charge to needy individuals, over 12 million pounds of food.

Food collected by Community Harvest is channeled through a member agency network of over 350 soup kitchens, church pantries, senior and day care centers, drug and alcohol treatment centers, homeless shelters and other nonprofit agencies that serve our area's needy,whose only common denominator is hunger.

Our current level of service helps 50,000 individuals a month with a yearly distribution in excess of 4 million pounds a year. The retail value of food distributed yearly by Community Harvest is in excess of $7 million dollars. This is wholesome and nutritious food that would otherwise have been wasted.

In addition to collecting food donations from the food industry Community Harvest has special programs to glean fields, teach gardening, convert inner-city vacant lots into youth gardens and is developing wheel-chair gardens. We assist with urban gardening by distributing free seeds and plants as a back-yard approach to hunger. The special needs of homebound seniors are addressed by Seniorpak, a home delivery program of groceries taken by volunteers to needy homebound seniors.

A true partnership of the public and private sector and hundreds of caring donors and volunteers make it possible for Community Harvest to continue its daily work of reclaiming available food needed to reclaim the health and ability to function of those who suffer from lack of food in Northeast Indiana.

A not-for-profit, human service organization working to help feed area hungry people

DISTRICT III WELFARE REPORT
ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
DISTRICT III, STATE OF INDIANA
4820 NEW HAVEN AVENUE
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46803

APRIL 5, 1991

TO: THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER

My name is Joan D. Uebelhoer. I am the Director of Welfare for District III of the State of Indiana. The District covers eleven counties and includes Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, LaGrange, Miami, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells, and Whitley. This area covers the northeast corner of Indiana. Allen County is the largest geographical county in Indiana and contains the metropolitan area of Fort Wayne. There are also several small towns in Allen County and much rural area. The other 11 counties are mostly rural with small towns dotting the landscapes, each with a county seat.

The State of Indiana has experienced a 24% increase in the number of people needing Welfare services, 1989 over 1990. District III is running about 38% in increases, ahead of the rest of the state. So this is a good place to have a hearing about hunger.(See Attachment I)

As we speak about hunger, I cannot help but add a note which says I presume you in the Congress are also looking at HUNGER from a global perspective. One day during the current Operation Slaughter, my waiting room was filled to capacity. During that day, the President of the United States issued a statement saying that all prisoners of war must be guaranteed, under the rules of the Geneva Convention, medical care, shelter, clothing, and FOOD. I was sorely tempted to encourage the people in the waiting room to lie on the floor and wave white flags and surrender.

The barriers to receiving enough to eat in this part of America are many and I will try to address each briefly. This information was gleaned from the Directors of the various counties and pertinent staff.

A. PRENATAL: The availability of prenatal care for poor women is becoming more and more scarce. There is often a waiting period of several weeks between the first call and the first appointment. The vitamins a pregnant woman should be taking, especially high risk women, are delayed beyond the point of substantial fetal development.

B. POSTPARTUM: The WIC program has been cut substantially for women after delivery who are not nursing. These are usually young moms or poor moms who are at high risk. The WIC program has proved over and over again that each dollar spent in WIC saves three dollars later on.

C. FOOD STAMPS: The Food Stamp program is touted as making it possible for everyone to eat. The myth is that government provides the basic needs for people, including food. The truth is there are many barriers to receiving food stamps. Recently, FNS conducted, through a consulting firm, studies of five counties nation wide concerning the barriers to receiving food stamps. Allen County, Indiana, was one of those five counties. (See Attachment II) The results of the study are attached.

What the study showed was it takes an inordinate amount of time and a considerable amount of out of pocket expense to access food stamps. There are various barriers to the food stamp program itself:

(1) TRANSPORTATION: In every county in this district, transportation is a major barrier to accessing food stamps. There is no public transportation in 10 of the counties in this district. In Allen County, the Public Transportation only covers the metropolitan area, not the rural areas. There is great isolation among the rural poor. Commercial buses, which used to run from small town to small town are no longer available. Trains are nonexistent.

(2) REGULATIONS: There is no consolidated standard of need as in the AFDC regulations. We verify each expense which takes a lot of time and often, a couple of trips to the office by the client. There is an assumption that students in colleges are from families that are rich. This is certainly no longer the case and if people are going to better themselves to get out of the poverty cycle, the food stamp program could help them.

(3) HOUSING: During the past and present federal administrations, money for housing was cut drastically. This has forced people to use their food stamp moneys (sold for cash in the underground economy) to help pay their rent. This causes a shortage of food.

(4) MARKETING: Rural people often do not know about the food stamp program. They think of "welfare" aid as something some ethnic group in New York lives on. They are very much unaware of the program, of what it entails, of what they can get.

(5) FOOD STAMP AMOUNTS: A client receives the same amount of food stamps wherever she/he lives in the 48 contiguous states. The cost of food in Indianapolis may vary greatly from the cost of food in a small town in northern Indiana.

DISTRICT III WELFARE REPORT
ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA

D. ERRATIC SUPPLEMENTAL HELP: Many of the counties have food banks sponsored by churches, high schools, service organizations but these are often seasonal or only open on certain days or at certain hours or when food is available. Some Welfare Departments have some supplemental help available at their offices. The Director of DeKalb County states: " There should be a simpler method to obtain help, especially that first month. Often people do not come until they are really down and out. We have some surplus commodities under our counter sometimes consisting of pears, flour, and canned pork. at least it is food."

In Allen County the Associated Churches sponsors nearly 25 food banks and, along with the Wayne Township Trustee and the Welfare Office, we are trying to stretch the available food as best we can. Local churches are providing hot meals for about 1500 people a day in Allen County.

E. TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE SYSTEM: In Indiana, general assistance is not administered by the Welfare Department but by a township trustee who is responsible for the poor relief. Some townships are excellent and have social worker mentalities and are organized. Some townships have no standards, have no office hours and are exclusionary in what citizen gets help.

F. GROCERY STORES: In rural areas there is a scarcity of places to buy food, and again, transportation becomes a problem. In the cities, the grocery stores in the inner cities are often not the supermarkets of the shopping centers in the suburbs and therefore charge more for the poorest of citizens.

G. JOBS: The amount of debt we forgave Turkey in order to have them join us in the Operation Slaughter was more than the total amount of Farm Subsidy for one year in the United States. Our farmers are not making ends meet in our rural areas. Many have been on family farms for generations and are failing.

We have experienced two deep recessions in the past decade in the United States. In this fourth district, many people fell from the $12.00 per hour job in automotive factories to $8.00 jobs during the first recession. Now those same people, with assets used up, are experiencing unemployment again. And the only jobs available are the minimum wage jobs.

About 40 to 50 % of our food stamp recipients are working. Working and still not making it is the ultimate "American Dream Turned Nightmare." Companies with all part time help and paying no

> benefits are asking the taxpayer to pick up the benefit package for their workers in food stamps, government housing etc.
>
> People need jobs that will allow them enough to feed their families.

The barriers to receiving enough to eat are many. The solutions to hunger in the north east part of Indiana are as complex as the politics of food is on a global basis.

There are some systemic problems with the delivery systems. I not sure anyone here will listen to those issues. Prevention is a better and cheaper way to tackle problems, but it seems a radical concept in the United States. We are 22nd in the world in our infant mortality rate. Why can't we learn from nations that do it better? I would recommend a study of the 21 nations ahead of us cause if we can do a better job of getting babies to live past the first year, we certainly would be well on our way to alleviating the hunger that follows the poverty that causes the infant mortality.

The Food Stamp system needs a complete overhaul combining those regulations with those of AFDC, streamlining them and simplifying them. Establishing a feeding system which does, indeed, meet the basic needs of people will allow the time and energy and money of other social services agencies and churches and synagogues to work on bettering the quality of life for our citizens. Basing amounts on the local cost of living would help alleviate regional differences.

Housing needs are critical as the homeless numbers grow even in the fourth district of Indiana. Decent housing, affordable housing will alleviate one big problem which impacts on hunger. And along with housing, the issue of open housing needs to be addressed.

Transportation systems in rural communities need to be looked at to stop the cruel isolation of the farming poor.

Jobs are even more critical and that includes education into skills that are needed in today's market, training and retraining.

One out of every three children in the largest school system in this district are eligible for free or sliding scale lunches. 32% of our children born in this state in two years, will be eligible for some Medicaid program which means they are born into households at or below the poverty level.

This is not the promise of a great future for middle America - for north eastern Indiana. This is a tragedy.

Thank you for coming to Northeast Indiana. I hope you hear us and take with you the message that we have a system that is simply not working for about a fourth of us. I trust you will tell them this back in Washington and bring forth some creative solutions.

THOMAS D. ESSEX, JR.

TRUSTEE WAYNE TOWNSHIP – ALLEN COUNTY

425 SOUTH CALHOUN STREET

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46802

I am Thomas D. Essex, Wayne Township Trustee. As the Trustee of Wayne Township my primary duties are to act as an overseer of the poor, and to provide temporary and emergency assistance to families who are in need. Wayne Township is one of three urban townships in the State of Indiana. My township consists of 67% of the City of Fort Wayne or roughly 117,000 people. In 1990, we served the needs of more than 30,000 residents of Wayne Township.

With the rising number of individuals in need of public assistance and the shrinking availability of funds to provide these needs, new and innovative ways of serving the needs of the poor are necessary. To be able to provide food for the needy in the 1990's the social agencies within our community must pool together their available resources in an intense effort to feed the poor.

In a country as prosperous as the United States, no child should ever go to bed hungry. But this happens every night. The attention of our country must now be focused on the domestic problems we are facing. By now it is obvious that the United States is the most powerful country in the world, however, with great power comes great responsibility. The primary responsibility now must be for those within our country who need our help.

The Wayne Township Trustees Office is designed to provide temporary and emergency assistance. Therefore the Trustee can not provide the long term food needs for the hungry. The long term needs must be provided by the Indiana Department of Public Welfare. The welfare department's food stamp program does not adequately provide enough food for a one month period of time. I have been informed by the executive director that the monthly allocation of food stamps realistically only last for twenty-one (21) days. The first step in resolving the problem of feeding the poor must be to increase the food stamp allotment so the family in need will have enough food to last the entire month.

The food stamp program must be the long term mechanism to feed the poor until other programs, like those funded by the Jobs Training Partnership Act and the Indiana Departments of Welfare's IMPACT Program can train and/or educate individuals so they can join or re-enter the workforce.

Once the long term mechanism has been perfected, it becomes the responsibility of other private and public social agencies to address the needs of the indigent for the period of time when the processing of their food stamp allotment is taking place.

Wayne Township working in conjunction with other private agencies like Associated Churches Food Bank is providing these services. By working together under the same roof we are able to sustain clients during the waiting period. Although we are an urban township, this same program can work in the rural areas. By combining the available resources and focusing them on the problem, social agencies can make progress in the war on poverty.

Winning battles in the war on poverty is going to require additional funding for the food stamp office. Also private and public social agencies will need to form an agenda to develop ways to feed individuals for the entire waiting period.

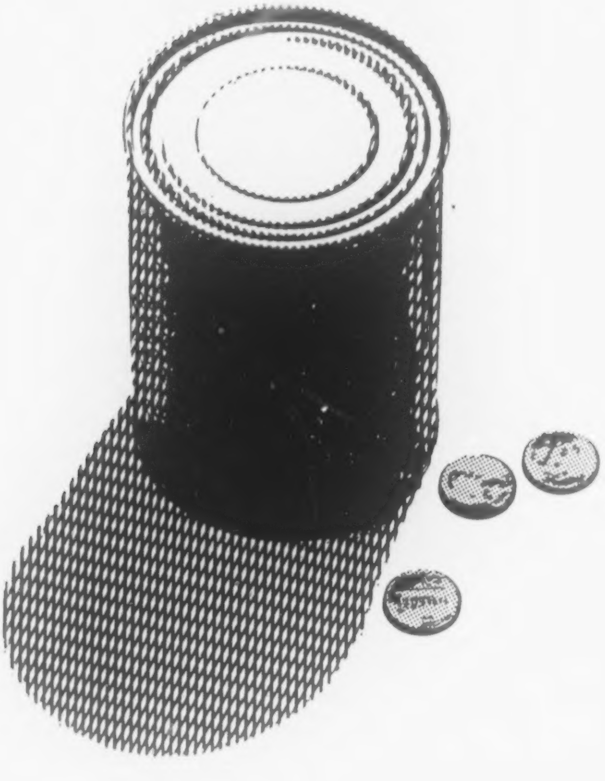
Now is the time for our country to show the rest of the world that we can be as strong in fighting peace time battles as we were in a time of war. The primary function of the New World Order must be to provide at least the basic needs for those who can not provide for themselves.

I would like to thank the Committee On Hunger for allowing me to testify this afternoon. I would also like to thank the Chairman, Congressman Hall and my representative, Congresswoman Jill Long for providing this forum.

Thomas D. Essex, Jr. Wayne Township Trustee

Higher Prices, Fewer Choices:

Shopping for Food in Rural America



PUBLIC VOICE FOR FOOD AND HEALTH POLICY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

More than nine million people live in poverty in rural America. However, the rural poor are among the most invisible of Americans, even though the poverty rate in rural communities is higher than in metropolitan areas. In 1987, the poverty rate in rural America was 16.9 percent, as compared to 12.5 percent in metropolitan areas. Since 1978, poverty has increased by more than 25 percent, bringing the total number in poverty in rural America to 9.1 million.

The rural poor are a group profoundly hampered by poor nutrition and the debilitating health consequences that follow. Since 1984, Public Voice has documented the serious nutritional shortcomings in the diets of the rural poor and identified some of the causes of poor nutrition.

The Food Stamp Program is the government's primary program to prevent the rural poor from going hungry. However, there is growing evidence that benefit allotments are not adequate to actually purchase a minimally adequate diet.

Food stamp benefit allotments are set each year based on the cost of the "Thrifty Food Plan" (TFP) as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA sets these costs by examining average food prices in supermarkets solely in urban areas. There is no consideration of the prices faced by the rural poor who may not even have a supermarket nearby and who instead rely on smaller "mom and pop" stores which consistently have higher prices and fewer choices.

Public Voice undertook this nationwide study to examine the access to supermarkets in rural America and to determine the actual cost and availability of foods in a TFP marketbasket and persistently poor rural America. During the summer of 1989, a team of two Public Voice surveyors traveled to 33 persistently poor rural counties throughout the United States. They priced a Thrifty Food marketbasket in 133 food stores, including 51 supermarkets and 82 small to medium food stores, consisting of 77 different foods.

The study found rural poor communities dependent upon smaller, more expensive stores for their food because few competitively priced supermarkets were located in these areas. It found unstocked shelves, and a dearth of fresh fruits, vegetables, and meats. Most important, the survey found the price of a "Thrifty Food Plan" marketbasket far exceeded food stamp allotments no matter where the rural poor shopped.

Key Findings

1. Food stamp benefit allotments are not adequate to purchase the foods necessary for the minimally adequate diet, the Thrifty Food Plan, for persons living in persistently poor rural America.

The Thrifty Food Plan is the government's formula to define the costs and foods needed to obtain a minimally adequate diet. The cost of the TFP is used to set benefit allotments for the Food Stamp Program and is the baseline used in determining poverty levels.

In 1989, the U.S. Department of Agriculture valued the weekly cost of the Thrifty Food Plan for a household of four at $75. However, the cost of a TFP marketbasket is substantially higher in persistently poor rural America than USDA's defined cost.

In 1989, the average cost for a week's worth of TFP groceries for a household of four in persistently poor rural America was $102 in small/medium stores; a cost 36 percent higher than USDA's 1989 maximum food stamp benefit allotment for that size household. This amounts to a $27 a week shortfall in food stamps needed to actually purchase the TFP groceries in small/medium stores.

In the more competitively priced supermarkets, the average cost for a week's worth of TFP groceries for a household of four was eight percent higher than USDA's cost. In addition, in only one out of five supermarkets (19.6%) could a TFP marketbasket be purchased for the maximum food stamp benefit allotment of $75 or less.

These findings probably underestimate the actual cost because foods selected for the study's marketbasket were among the least expensive foods in USDA's 31 categories. In addition, surveyors always selected the cheapest item regardless of package size or brand name when pricing food items at the stores. Therefore, consumer preference for specific foods or brand name items was ignored.

2. One out of every three food stamp dollars is spent in the smaller food stores in persistently poor rural America, while the other two dollars are spent in supermarkets.

In 1988, the average percent of coupons redeemed in the smaller food stores in persistently poor rural America was 32 percent. The remaining 62 percent of coupons was redeemed in supermarkets.

A larger share of the coupons is redeemed in the smaller stores in persistently poor rural America than in the nation as a whole. In 1988, 32 percent of the food stamps was redeemed in the smaller stores in persistently poor rural America as compared to 20 percent redeemed in the nation as a whole.

3. Rural America has limited access to the competitively priced supermarkets.

There are disproportionately fewer supermarkets in rural America than in urban America. In 1988, of the 29,738 supermarkets in operation less than one-third (30%) were located in rural America, even though the vast majority (77%) of counties are rural. As a result, there are nearly eight times as many supermarkets per county in urban America as in rural America. The average number of supermarkets per county in rural America was 3.8, while in urban America it was 29.2.

Not only are there fewer supermarkets per county, but the average number of square miles per supermarket is nearly 10 times larger in rural America than in urban America. In 1988, rural America had an average of one supermarket every 265 square miles, while urban America had one supermarket every 27 square miles.

Persistently poor rural America has even fewer supermarkets than the non-poor areas in rural America. There are roughly one-third more supermarkets per county in rural non-poor America than in persistently poor rural America. In 1988, the average number of supermarkets in persistently poor rural America was 2.9, compared to 3.9 in rural non-poor America.

4. The availability of fresh fruits, vegetables and meats is extremely limited in the small/medium stores in persistently poor rural America.

During the summer of 1989, 23 percent of the small/medium stores did not stock any fresh vegetables. An additional 35 percent of these stores only carried between one and four fresh vegetables and those most frequently stocked were onions and potatoes.

The availability of fresh fruits is even more limited in small/medium stores. One out of three (33%) stores stocked no fresh fruits. An additional 43 percent only carried between one and four fresh fruits and those most frequently stocked were bananas, apples, oranges and grapefruit.

As with fresh produce, small/medium stores in persistently poor rural America offered a limited selection of fresh meats. Almost one-third (30%) of these stores stocked no fresh meats. An additional one-third only carried between one and four fresh meats.

Key Recommendations

1. Provide Adequate Food Stamp Benefit Allotments to Recipients

▸ **Raise food stamp benefit allotments 5 percent above the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan in FY 1991 and an additional 3 percent for the next four years. By FY 1995 benefit allotments will be increased 17 percent above the cost of the TFP.**

This study shows that a 17 percent increase in food stamp benefit allotments is necessary if the rural poor are to have the purchasing power to obtain the minimally adequate diet, the Thrifty Food Plan. This figure takes into account the proportion of purchases made in small/medium stores as well as in supermarkets.

In addition, our findings concur with urban studies showing similar cost discrepancies. Findings from one study showed that the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan in 1987 in Los Angeles' supermarkets was 15 percent higher, in medium stores 26 percent higher and in small food stores 38 percent higher than USDA's established cost.

In another study, conducted in three areas in New York State in 1989 showed that compared to the maximum food stamp benefit allotment, the cost of the TFP marketbasket in supermarkets was 4.6 percent higher in a suburban county, 8.9 percent higher in a rural county and 14.1 percent higher in the borough of Brooklyn. Marketbasket costs in small/medium stores were all consistently higher, ranging from 17.5 to 21.9 percent higher than maximum food stamp allotments.

▸ **Revise food stamp benefit allotments twice a year rather than once a year.**

Each month the cost of purchasing the Thrifty Food Plan is updated using the Consumer Price Index based on data collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Since 1980, food stamp benefit allotments have been revised only once a year. Therefore, in any given year, food stamp benefits lag 3 to 15 months behind the actual cost of the plan.

▸ **Index the minimum benefit of $10 provided to one and two person households to reflect inflation.**

The current minimum benefit has not been increased since 1977, while the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan has risen 89 percent over this same period.

▸ **Re-evaluate the methodology used to determine food stamp benefits.**

This study shows that the methodology used to determine the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan and thus food stamp benefit allotments for the rural poor is inappropriate. USDA's cost determination of the TFP is not based on food prices incurred by the rural poor. Rather it is based primarily on food prices in large supermarkets in major urban areas. Moreover, the indexes are based on the average consumer, rather than the low-income consumer.

These indexes therefore are not realistic measures of what the rural poor actually pay for food. As this study showed, the rural poor have limited access to supermarkets and must shop for at least some of their groceries in the smaller more expensive stores. In addition, even if the rural poor shop in supermarkets, their costs are still higher than the food stamp benefit allotments.

▸ **Move toward replacing the Thrifty Food Plan with the Low Cost Food Plan as the standard for setting food stamp benefit levels.**

The Thrifty Food Plan is only intended to provide for a minimally adequate diet on an emergency basis, not sustain good nutritional status over a long period of time. Both the Society for Nutrition Education and the American Public Health Association passed policy statements in 1980 criticizing the inadequacy of the Thrifty Food Plan.

2. Assist Smaller Food Stores Become More Competitively Priced and Offer a Wider Variety of Fresh Produce and Meats.

▸ **Establish a three to five year federal grant demonstration program to support the creation of cooperative wholesale buying with established wholesalers for small/medium food markets in economically depressed rural areas.**

A major obstacle to selling foods at comparable prices to area supermarkets is the inability of small/medium stores to purchase foods from wholesalers at the same prices as supermarkets. Approximately three out of four (72%) owners of small/medium food stores reported they were paying more to purchase foods from wholesalers than from area supermarkets. When asked why, the most often heard response was that they don't buy the volume of food that supermarkets do and thus pay more.

The Hartford Food System in Connecticut recognized this problem and several years ago organized local small/medium food stores into the Hartford Grocers' Association. As members of this association, the smaller stores have access to substantially lower wholesale prices through collective buying agreements. The association also provides collective advertising, mutual aid and support to its member stores. Starting in the summer of 1990, association members will buy many of their fresh food directly from local farmers. This urban solution could be replicated in a rural setting.

▸ Establish low interest loans for the improvement of small/medium food markets in economically depressed rural America.

Many of the smaller stores need to modernize their stores and update their equipment. But for many, they either can't procure or can't afford to take out a conventional loan. With little additional cost, the federal government could earmark a certain percentage of the Small Business Administration or the Farmers Home Administration loan programs for this program. This would enable store owners to gain access to low interest loans.

▸ Establish low interest loans for the purchase of the smaller food stores in economically depressed rural areas.

Rural America depends heavily on smaller food stores. However many are closing when either the store owner retires or dies. It is extremely difficult to sell a smaller food store. While the store may have made a marginal profit, the debt burden of taking out a conventional loan to purchase the business and the overhead is too high for many potential buyers to make a profit. As a result, food stores are simply closing. This not only means that people have to travel farther to do their shopping, but that local community employment and dollars are leaving that town.

HUNGER
IN
ALLEN COUNTY

A Survey of Hunger in Allen County
Indiana
Fall, 1986

Indiana State Board of Health
Nutrition Division
1330 West Michigan Street
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1964

IV. Discussion of Findings

In examining the survey results, it is evident that hunger does exist and is a problem in Allen County. Based upon a comparison and analysis of the survey results, the following observations can be made regarding the characteristics of the respondents.

-Over two-thirds (67.4%) report not having enough food to eat.

-Almost one-half (46.3%) report missing meals due to not having any food available.

-Over one-half (58.7%) report not having enough money to buy food for their family the previous month.

-Almost 80% report running out of food or money to buy food before the end of the month.

-Most are unemployed (69.3%), white (62.4%), and female (72%).

-One-third are single and 29.8% report having no children under age 18 in the household.

-Over one-third (42.4%) are 25-44 years of age, 21.6% are 18-24 years of age, and 6.9% are 65 years and older.

-Almost one-half (47.7%) report incomes of under $350 month, but most (70%) do not receive food stamps.

-Almost one-half (45.5%) did not complete high school.

V. Summary and Conclusions

What these observations clearly indicate is that there are a number of individuals in Allen County who face hunger every day. These individuals are running out of food or money to buy food before the end of the month, missing meals due to not having food available, and generally reporting that they do not have enough to eat. Most Allen County residents included in the sample were unemployed, had a high school education or less, were relatively young (18-44 years of age), and lived on very low incomes (under $350 month).

Examining the food that was consumed by respondents, it is clear that most diets were inadequate in fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. The foods from the fruits and vegetables and dairy products groups tended to be replaced by the non-nutritious junk food items included within the "other" category (i.e., soft drinks, candy, potato chips). This held true both for the last meal eaten and for purchases at the grocery store.

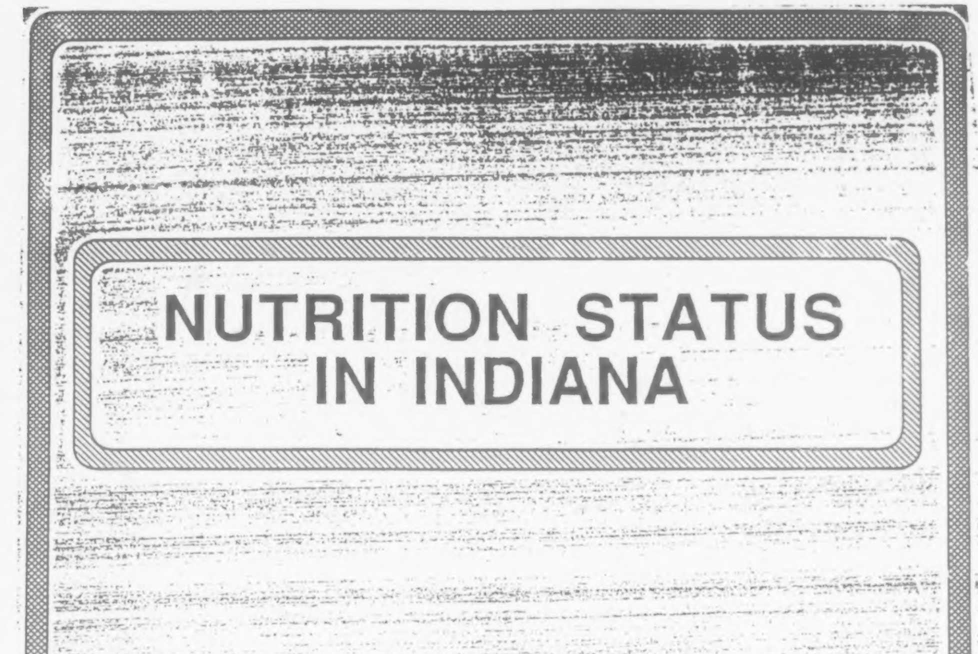
It is evident that, while two-thirds of the respondents indicated that they did not have enough food to eat--when they did eat, they often consumed non-nutritious junk food items.

With 69.3 percent of the respondents reporting unemployment and 47.7 percent of the sample reporting incomes of under $350, it would be expected that those receiving food stamps would be high. However, the data did not show this to be true; almost two-thirds (65.6 percent) of the respondents report not receiving food stamps.

It is not known how many of the respondents applied and were turned down vs. how many of the respondents did not apply for food stamps at all. More research needs to be done in this area to determine why the rate of food stamp usage appears to be so low among a group of individuals that could definitely qualify and use the assistance. Separate data indicate that there are people who are employed or underemployed that are eligible for food services and have similar needs as the sample population, but who do not, for whatever reasons, use the food services that are available.

Although not specifically addressed by the survey, it should be noted that the homeless population in general share many of the same characteristics (i.e., relatively young, single, unemployed, uneducated) with emergency food recipients. It is not known how many of the survey respondents were homeless, but it is another issue which needs to be taken into consideration when the topic of hunger is discussed.

It is evident that there are hungry people in Allen County. The characteristics of the Allen County survey respondents are very similar to the characteristics of other surveys of food recipients nationwide. Through this survey, some of the characteristics of food recipients and the hunger problem in general were able to be identified.



NUTRITION STATUS IN INDIANA

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

1330 WEST MICHIGAN STREET,
INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA 46206-1964

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proper nutrition, in the form of adequate and appropriate diet, is essential for good health. Proper diet helps to ensure satisfactory rates of growth and development, recovery from illness and injury, and enhances quality of life through increased individual productivity. An adequate diet for healthy persons is one that is considered to be consistent with the Recommended Daily Allowances. In addition to these guidelines, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services encourage following the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which emphasize moderate intake of certain foods.

Inadequate or inappropriate nutrition is a contributing factor in the etiology of many illnesses and diseases. Six of the ten leading causes of death in the nation and the State are linked to diet. These diseases include heart disease, cancer, stroke, diseases of the arteries, diabetes, and cirrhosis of the liver. Diet also contributes to health problems, such as iron deficiency anemia and dental disease, which both commonly affect the Hoosier population.

There are many reasons for inadequate and inappropriate nutrition. Two primary reasons are lack of money to buy nutritious foods and lack of sound nutrition information and education to make appropriate nutritional choices.

Social and environmental factors also direct nutrition choices. Among the social factors is the trend of a greater proportion of Hoosiers who are dining out. The result of this trend is twofold: greater overall emphasis on food services outside of the home and less choice over food items and how those items are prepared. There has been a radical change in the composition of the individual diet during this century. This change has manifested itself in increased consumption of fats and refined and processed sugars. These nutrients have replaced intake of "naturally-occurring" sugars, vegetables, and grain products.

These trends, as well as lack of money and nutrition education, all have demonstrated the potential to affect adversely individual diet. However, those Hoosiers without money are at greatest risk. This is especially the case for pregnant and lactating women, infants, children, and the elderly, who all have either complex or unique nutritional needs. Because of their high-risk status, the majority of food assistance services and programs are targeted to these segments of the population.

Food assistance services and programs are available in both the public and private sectors in Indiana. There are ten federally-administered, State-operated nutrition programs in the State. Seven of these programs provide direct food assistance or vouchers to purchase foods. Three programs offer nutrition education for the purpose of improving nutritional choice and thus individual diet. Limited (usually emergency) food assistance is also available at the county and city level in some cases. There is, however, no overall nutrition agency, policy or plan, in the State, and there is no overall federal nutrition policy.

Private sector food services consist primarily of a statewide network of ten food banks. These banks serve approximately 500-member agencies and an unknown number of Hoosiers. Other nutrition support services and programs, including school nutrition policies and community fluoridation programs, address nutrition issues.

Despite the number and extent of public and private sector programs, a gap exists between those persons served and those persons needing to be served. In the WIC program, 160,000 women, infants, and children are potentially eligible to participate in the program. About 70,000 persons are currently enrolled. In the Food Stamp program, 22,494 households, or an estimated 65,000 persons who are certified to receive benefits, are not receiving them. About one in every four elderly Hoosiers is living at, or below, poverty level. Only about 20,000 out of 160,000 low-income elderly are receiving meals through publicly funded meal programs.

Many Hoosiers could benefit from nutrition education, rather than a source of nutrition. This education could benefit, for example, the more than one million overweight Hoosiers, some of the handicapped and developmentally disabled population and their caretakers, and the huge number of children who will develop dental disease by age ten.

The human and economic costs of inadequate and inappropriate nutrition continue to be explored. What is known is that nutrition-related disease and illnesses contribute substantially to the cost of health care, and that health care expenses account for over one-tenth of the GNP. Increasing evidence indicates that this cost could be lowered significantly through health promotion and disease prevention activities that include good nutrition.

Hunger In Fort Wayne and Allen County-1991

by Rev. Vernon R. Graham
Executive Pastor of the Associated
Churches of Ft. Wayne and Allen County

Re: House Select Committee on Hunger Visit

To have adequate food is a right promised to each American by God and assured to us by the Declaration of Independence. It is important for our " life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Yet, today in our community at least 1 of 10 men, women, and children go to bed without adequate food that day and with the prospect that tomorrow will not be any better. There have been 2 studies completed in our community since 1986 that have shown that hunger and the lack of adequate food for oneself or family is the number one problem in Allen County. They were: The Emergency Service Commission's System Wide Strategic Plan For Comprehensive Human Service Delivery In Fort Wayne and Allen County (1986) and the Hunger in Allen County Report by the Indiana State Board of Health (1987).

High unemployment, the transition from an agrarian and factory orientated society to that of service industries, and resultant lower incomes are a few reasons for the problem in our community. There are not enough jobs that pay enough income for families to adequately provide for themselves. We also have an archaic welfare delivery system. The food stamp benefits have not been updated or changed substantially since 1968. The Township Trustee system in our community has been wrought with fraud, inefficiency, and ineffectiveness. Landlords continue to charge exorbitant rents for substandard dwelling units. Utility costs are causing an ever increasing burden on the poor. We have come to the point where homelessness, hunger, and poverty is everywhere in our community.

Even though the problems are most concentrated in our community in the Urban Center of Fort Wayne, it is evident in our rural communities as well throughout Allen County. Small towns such as Monroeville, Harlan, Leo, Grabill,and New Haven have pockets of poverty, unemployment, and a resultant malnutrition problem. The problem of a lack of adequate food is compounded in the rural community by inadequate transportation, unavailable adequate public or private sector resources, and a general feeling that poverty always means that you have done something wrong.

The problem of hunger is becoming increasingly visible in our community, especially with the ever increasing homeless situation. It has been documented that there are nearly 1,000 people in Fort Wayne and close to 3,200 people in Allen County that are homeless, in one form or another (1990 Census). The homeless are not all mentally challenged, substance abuse users, or single males. The fact is that 2/3rds of all of the homeless in Allen County are children. This is a major change over the past 10 years and directly tied to poverty and a lack of affordable low cost housing.

Fort Wayne and Allen County are rather fortunate, however, in that they have a concerned community with a strong Judeo-Christian heritage that cares about the problems of hunger, unemployment, and poverty. There may not be enough resources to do all that needs to be done. Yet, the public and private sector are beginning to network together in the last 3-5 years as has never been done before. There still exists a degree of healthy competition for funding, etc. but new models of co-operation are being forged to face the recession that the community is in and to prepare for working together even more closely in the years ahead.

There is a pervasive mentality in this community, however, that government should take care of the needs of all its' people. The State and Federal Government has designated a large number of resources to feeding the poor. However, with restrictive guidelines, inadequate funding, and overworked staff to monitor existing programs, the system is breaking down and isn't functioning to meet the ever increasing need. A family of 4 on the Food Stamp program, even with the purchase of generic foods and proper preparation, can't make it through the entire month. Therefore, no matter the effort that a family makes, they are faced with the reality of begging for food for 5-7 days of each month. The argument seems to be in Indiana that we don't want to make welfare too attractive to people or the poor may want to move here to receive higher benefits.

Now, with all of that said, there exists in Allen County many special private sector-public sector agency relationships to help feed the unemployed, the working poor, and the historic poor. There will be many fine leaders represented here today to share with you about their agency's special partnerships and approaches to serving the hunger needs of the poor. Yet, I am honored to be here today to share with you about one-the Associated Churches Food Bank System of Fort Wayne and Allen County.

In April of 1980, all social service agencies were brought together by the mayor to examine how the private and public sector programs could work together better to help the poor of our community with adequate food, shelter, and clothing. The Churches of the community agreed to concentrate on the area of hunger. Other agencies agreed to work on different social service needs. We began the program in November, 1980 with 8 foodbanks (South of the Downtown Area). We began as an emergency foodbank system, helping a needy family with food once a year for such emergencies as unemployment, house fire, etc.

By 1982 the great flood left thousands homeless and in need of food. Between 1982-1985 the full effects of International Harvester closing its' main plant doors to over 5,000 employees, left the community devastated. The national recession was hitting our community so hard that Time magazine had the mayor turning off the lights of our community. The number of people served grew from only 1,000 in the two months of 1980 to 20,000 county residents in 1981 to 45,000 residents in 1984. By 1984 the hunger problem was defined to be throughout the entire county and a total of 22 foodbanks were established to meet the need. However, beginning in April of 1990 and continuing through today, the number of families in need have again skyrocketed to 32,000 in 1981 and in the first months of 1991, our foodbank sites are serving 2,500-3,000 residents a month.

The Associated Churches Foodbank program is today located in 23 sites throughout Fort Wayne and Allen County. The locations are in census blocks and township areas to serve the needy families in their neighborhoods. Transportation is not as large a problem that way and the foodbanks have the opportunity to meet their neighbors and be advocates for them in other issues, such as employment, housing, and information on where to go to receive other social service help that is needed. Each of the foodbank sites are located in a church or neighborhood center. Our newest foodbank opened in March, 1991 and is located in the Wayne Township Trustee's Office. Each site has donated free space and utilities. There is an intricate system of over 325 volunteers that provide case management and words of encouragement and hope to those in need at various hours during each week. The minimum number of hours each foodbank is open weekly is 9 with most of them open 9-12 on Monday-Wednesday-Friday. Warehouse space is donated by the Salvation Army program on Jefferson Street.

The program began as a community wide effort to help the poor within the churches. By 1982 over 125 urban and rural churches were collecting food to help the poor. Today churches, factories, civic groups, F.E.M.A. funds, schools, business's, grocery chains, food brokers, and Food Wholesalers helped to provide over 400,000 meals in 1981. What began as an Emergency Foodbank System has now become a Foodbank System. Initially we helped a family once a year, because of the increased need and increased foodstuffs collected, we have increased the feeding opportunities to once a month for a five day supply or 15 complete meals per person. It is important to note that all meals are given out to the poor with no charge for the food.

When the efforts of our urban/rural foodbank approaches are added together, I can report to you that from November, 1980-December 31, 1990, our foodbank delivery system as provided the following to our community at no charge:

No. of Individuals Served	263,334
No. of Family Units	75,237
No. of Meals Served	3,452,834
Number of estimated dollars/food given	$2,555,097
Average Cost per meal	$.74 per meal

All dollars collected have been utilized to purchase food from Food Marketing Inc. at Wholesale prices. The overhead expenses have been granted for the past 7 years from the City of Ft. Wayne in the form of a Block Grant of $20,000 (1984) to $35,000 (1992). This means that when all donations are analyzed that for every dollar given by the City of Ft. Wayne in block grant funds $20 worth of food, volunteer space, volunteer labor, etc. has been given by the Community. This is remarkable in that it takes $1 to spend $1.25 in our local trustee system.

In 1990 3 new food programs began through the Associated Churches of Ft. Wayne and Allen County. They were:

A. Children Feeding Children:

This is a special food program aimed at training the middle class youth from community churches, Scout Troops, Youth for Christ groups, etc. to be concerned about and to help out the children that are homeless or at risk. The youth have collected food items, personal hygiene items, quilts, etc. and placed them in back packs. The youth then write notes of encouragement and hope to the homeless children and take the backpacks to the Rescue Mission Women and Children's Shelter, the Vincent House, the Y.W.C.A. Women's Shelter, the Day Break Program, the Township Trustee's Office and many of our foodbanks. They have first hand opportunity to bring Hope to the children and to begin to realize that they will be the future caregivers of tomorrow.

Many local churches and organizations have provided money or items for the backpacks. The Jr. Women's League have provided food items and sleeping bags. In 1990 over 500 homeless and at-risk youth were given these special backpacks. The value is $45-$50 per backpack with all items donated or purchased with donated funds. Again all overhead is absorbed by the agency.

B. Feeding the Babies Program

This special program began in 1990 to help support the Women, Infants, and Children Program as sponsored by the Federal and State Governments. It had come to our attention that there were many infants that were not getting an adequate amount of formula. The W.I.C. Program was able to give each baby 1 can of formula per day. However, there reaches a point in the lives of most infants that 1 1/2 cans of formula is needed. The W.I.C. program was not able because of regulations to give more than 1 can. Therefore, the churches of our community have been collecting formula and we have been distributing it on referral from W.I.C., First Call for Help, Three Rivers Health Clinic, Matthew 25 , etc. We are distributing 7-10 cases per month to 60+ infants per month. Doctors, Veterinarians, food brokers, individuals, and churches have contributed to the program. The overhead has been absorbed by the agency.

C. Neighborhood Meals Program

In 1990 7,000 meals were shared with the inner city youth at no charge. The Associated Churches provided the food and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance provided the building, the cooks, and the program. It was meant to supplement nutrition in the summer and to give the youth an opportunity to increase their self-esteem. Counseling and education was given by the Afro-American clergy on values, Aides, and substance abuse. There is a meal offered on site in an inner city church each weekday over a 6 week period of time. Our projections for 1991 is 10,000 meals. A youth literacy component will be offered this summer in conjunction with the Ministerial Alliance and the Foellinger Foundation.

Two components that have been added for 1991 are:

A. Our 23rd Foodbank has been opened in March in the basement of the Wayne Township Trustee's Office. We have begun a pilot project with this Township Trustee, and the Allen County Welfare Department in order to get all eligible people in Allen County on foodstamps. They will be assured of a 25 day supply of food when they sign up at the Trustee's Office for help if they sign up and qualify for foodstamps. It will be a one-stop shop in that our foodbank will help them at the Trustee's Office. They will then be helped by the trustee and our foodbank until their foodstamps arrive. The foodbanks in the neighborhoods and the Trustee representative will help with filling out the foodstamp form. This promises to be a model for the 1001 townships in Indiana if it is successful. It demonstrates additional networking to develop models to help the hungry in our county.

B. We are in the process of developing an additional model throughout Allen County for the distribution of U.S.D.A. commodities. This partnership is with the Community Action of Northeast Indiana Program. It will pilot the placement of commodities in our foodbanks throughout Allen County rather than the normal commodity give aways. This will assure that the food will get to the needy and not just anyone who comes forth and says they are or are over 60, etc. This pilot can also be a statewide model if it is successful. It will officially begin by May 1, 1991.

The Associated Churches Food Bank System works well and can be duplicated in any medium sized urban center and in any rural community. The government at any level can't do the job alone. It must have a safety net to catch those that fall through the cracks. It means developing a networking with all governmental and private social service systems. In Fort Wayne this has been done successfully and we are honored to have the opportunity to share this very special urban-rural model with you. Thanks to each of you for allowing all of us to share with you concerning the needs in our community and the many ways that the public and private sector work together to make a difference.

FOOD ASSISTANCE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES:
PROBLEMS, PROSPECTS, AND IDEAS FROM URBAN PROGRAMS

Testimony before the House Select Committee on Hunger
Fort Wayne Field Hearing
April 5, 1991

By: Joseph H. Conrad, Executive Director
Community Action of Northeast Indiana, Inc.

Good Afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I am Joe Conrad, Executive Director of Community Action of Northeast Indiana. I want to thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today. I have been asked to provide an overview of the nature and extent of the rural hunger problem in Northeast Indiana, and also, to describe the services provided by Community Action of Northeast Indiana. Unfortunately our time together this afternoon will not allow me to do that adequately. But perhaps I can address some key issues which I consider to be critically important to your decision-making processes and then to introduce you to a couple of people who have a much better perspective on the problem than I do.

But first let me tell you a little something about the organization that I represent and our past involvement in food issues. CANI is one of the approximately 1,000 officially designated Community Action Agencies supported federally by Community Services Block Grant dollars. A CSBG grant of $250,000 permits the agency to marshall other resources and provide between $4 and $5 million worth of goods and services to poor residents in our six county service area.

For 25 years we have been attempting to address root causes of poverty in Northeast Indiana. Our goal is to remove barriers which prevent low-income people from becoming economically self-sufficient. During this time we have been deeply involved in food, hunger, and nutrition issues. (Please note that I list those as separate and distinct issues.) I believe we have accomplished a lot.

In the early 70's CANI provided outreach services for the then new Food Stamp program; making people aware of and signing them up for the program.

CANI initiated the first Summer Free Lunch Program in this area; providing nutritious meals in the parks at a time when the public schools were reluctant to address the problem of hungry kids during the summer months.

CANI initiated the first Head Start programs in this area and today continues to insure that each of the 500 children enrolled in our program receives meals under the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

CANI initiated the Women, Infants, and Children's Supplemental Nutrition program in Allen County and later expanded WIC services to five more rural counties.

With the help of over 800 volunteers, CANI has been distributing between 1 and 2 million pounds of TEFAP foods to low-income families and routinely supplies foodstuffs to 25-30 food pantries and soup kitchens under the SK/FP portion of this Surplus Commodity Distribution Program.

CANI has negotiated agreements with groceries and restaurants in our rural counties to redeem our food vouchers. Last year over $17,000 worth of these vouchers were given to poor and homeless people under FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program and the CSBG Homeless Program.

CANI has been deeply involved in the development and spread of private food pantries sponsored by churches and other community based organizations; and has promoted the coordination of those individual efforts into joint efforts such as the Associated Churches Emergency Food Bank System.

We have invested heavily in getting low-income people interested and actively pursuing Urban Gardens as a partial solution to their hunger problems.

In 1978 a Community Food and Nutrition grant made it possible for CANI to establish and outfit the Hanna-Creighton Nutrition Center, an inner city canning facility which permits poor urban gardeners to preserve their summer produce for later use. This project was later "spun-off" and continues to operate with the support of the Allen County Farm Bureau Extension Service and the City of Fort Wayne.

CANI is proud to have been the catalytic agent in the Allen County community which initiated, developed, and operated the Community Harvest Food Bank. A part of the Second Harvest network, this organization was developed into a separate 501-C3, and now is distributing over 3 million pounds of food to needy feeding-groups in a 10 county region.

Yes, we know a little about food and food programs for the poor.

One thing that we know for sure, and without any doubt, is that right here in rural Northeast Indiana, the land of the conservative, independent, and self-sufficient farmer, where food should be plentiful and this should not be a problem -- every day more and more mothers cry out for more help in feeding their families. Please ask yourselves. "WHY?"

Aside from the Reduced/Free Lunch Program (and a few scattered Breakfast Programs) available in the public schools for enrolled children of the right ages, the major food assistance effort in rural areas is the Food Stamp Program. Application can be made at the County Welfare Office located in the county seat of each county. (IF you can find transportation to get there.) In some cases people will receive expedited food stamps within a short period, but most often will wait 45 days or more to receive stamps which can be redeemed at groceries (again, if you've got a way to get there.)

Welfare offices are receiving 44% more applications now than they were a year ago. "WHY?"

The value of the food stamps received is inadequate to feed a family for the entire month at today's prices. So when (not if) you run out, there's a backup system in Indiana. Elected Township Trustees are responsible for providing "Poor Relief" assistance. This is the only general public assistance program Indiana provides. So if you can find out who is your township trustee, and where he happens to be when you need him (usually he's a local farmer or businessman busy working to keep his family fed); -- if you can find him, then you can plead your case to him and ask for help. (Although you're apt to need to explain to him what poor relief is and that he is responsible for it -- and, oh yes, hope he remembered to put something in his budget for it.) Then he can help if he wants to, or he can choose not to. Truthfully, most people find the whole process so cumbersome and demeaning that they don't even bother trying to use it. Repeated efforts to reform this system have failed because of vested interests and political realities.

It's much easier to find a local church or perhaps a community charity that has established a food pantry. There, without too much hassle, you can receive a box of groceries which will tide you over for a couple of days. It won't be a balanced diet - little meat or dairy products - but at least you'll be fed. And, of course, you have to be careful not to come back too often and wear out your welcome.

That's pretty much the extent of your options if you're poor and hungry in rural Northeast Indiana. Hope you have good neighbors or relatives around to help out.

There are elderly nutrition feeding sites scattered around, and some limited transportation services to get people there. They do a good job of addressing the social isolation needs of older people; but aren't of much use to the poor and working families who need help.

And if you can get onto the WIC program (that is, if your kids are the right ages, and there is an identified "nutritional need", and there isn't a waiting list, and you can get to the clinics on a regular basis) then that program will help supplement your grocery bill by about $38/month. Again, this program is quite effective in addressing some particular health problems, but of little use in resolving ongoing food cost issues.

Or if you can wait a couple of months for a Commodity Distribution, you can pick up some flour and some butter and a few other things to eat. But that program is not really solving anybody's problems either.

In preparing this testimony, I was asked to explore whether strategies used to combat urban poverty could be successfully transferred to rural areas. Personally, I don't believe they have worked well in urban settings, so I am doubtful of their success in rural areas.

There are a few factors unique to rural poverty which you should consider. These are all, however, unique only in the sense of a matter of degree - being more prevalent and apparent among the rural poor.

First, the rural poor are more isolated than their urban counterparts. This means it is harder to find them and it means it is harder to make them aware of any help that might be available. Word doesn't spread on the street grapevines the way it does in our cities. Outreach services need to be a vital part of any strategy developed. But keep in mind, this isolation is not just a matter of geography. It is also an informational isolation. Most rural people are under the mistaken impression that there is a single "Welfare" program that takes care of people that can't make it on their own. When they find out that they don't qualify for AFDC, they don't know where to turn.

Secondly, the lack of transportation is a critical barrier to participation in assistance programs. Whatever help is to be offered will need to be taken to these people, widely decentralized, mail delivered, or a public transport system developed.

Third, there is a much stronger pride barrier in rural areas to contend with. People living in small communities are notorious for knowing each other's business. Fear of being socially outcast, or labeled a "welfare bum", tend to keep people away from the help they need and want.

And lastly, there is general absence of support resources in rural areas. Other than an active church network (and CAA's) few other social service agencies are available to be called upon to help deliver or support assistance efforts.

So, anyway, without a lot of figures and statistics, that's the nature and extent of rural hunger in Northeast Indiana. Lots of demand and little supply. And yet, on a more encouraging note, I believe we do a better job of meeting the poor's food needs than any of their other needs. Housing, heat, transportation, health care, etc. are all much tougher problems to resolve.

If you would care to hear some advice from one of us country boys, I've got some to offer.

I would suggest that you need to put your food programs into a proper perspective. Hunger assistance strategies need to be designed to get into a much broader, and far-sighted strategy for dealing with the problems of dependent people.

What are the goals of your food programs?

Are you responding to some sense of moral responsibility that society/government has to meet basic needs of its population? Are you trying to guarantee an inalienable American right to food?

Or are you responding to the fact that hungry school children cannot concentrate on their studies and therefore miss basic living skills that later in life will force them into dependency?

Do you want to provide food? Or do you want to ensure that poor nutrition does not create health problems which prevent independent living?

Is this congregate meal site established to provide food for those that cannot afford to feed themselves, or is it established as a focal point for social interaction to reduce isolation of the elderly.

Young mothers and fathers will not - CANNOT - think about long term goals such as education, finding a job, or even filling out a food stamp application, when they are worried about feeding their babies tonight.

Hunger is only one sympton of a much larger problem that we face.

CANI also operates a number of utility assistance programs. This year we spent over $1½ million paying heat bills for people who could not afford to pay them themselves. Most of those people were working full-time.

CANI also works with the homeless. Hardly a day goes by that we don't talk with someone who can no longer afford to pay for shelter.

And the number of people who can no longer afford to live, grows each and every year.

I suppose we can continue to try and just provide a safety net for those people - give them homes, heat, food, clothing, and health care. But its getting pretty dang expensive.

I think its high time we put some money back into all those efforts we axed in the early 1980's - those discretionary programs that were designed to address root causes of and to prevent poverty. Its time to invest some energy into developing jobs that pay a living wage in America. And its time to invest in providing all of those people with a real opportunity to fill those jobs.

These poor people are going to take all the food you have to offer them, for as long as you offer it to them, until you give them what they really need - an opportunity to buy their own.

HAVE A
HEALTHY

BABY

Part of the Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program
Purdue University

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1990

Hanna-Creighton Nutrition Project

Earnesteen Smith
Nutrition Project Director

The current director assumed the position on July 1, 1984.

During the period of January 1, 1990 through December 31, 1990, the following program statistics were gathered:

Total Number of Clients	2690
Breakdown of Clients by Race	
Black	1775
White	685
Hispanic	175
Total Units of Vegetables & Fruits Processed	4542
Total Program Budget	$22,000
Total Expenditures - 1990	$22,400

Activities which the Nutrition Center Director coordinated during 1990 included the following:

- Procured donations of vegetables, jars, plants, and other items from volunteer donors in the community.
- Cooperated with food banks and WIC programs.
- Worked with Master Gardeners and passed out seeds and educational material to neighborhood associations, families in the EFNEP program, and gave gardening information to phone callers.
- Cooperated with Wayne Township, Hahna-Creighton neighbors, and other volunteers to maintain cleanliness at the Center.
- Made contacts with the Urban League and Job Training program to get youth and seniors to work with the program.
- Assisted with freezing and canning of fruits and vegetables for nearly 1300 people.
- Supervised maintenance of community gardens that were later used for processing.
- Inventoried supplies available for 1991 season.

A grant for 1991 in the amount of $22,000.00 has been approved by the Mayor of the City of Fort Wayne through a Community Development Block Grant.

Introduction

The purpose of the "Have a Healthy Baby "program is to produce healthy babies by decreasing the number of low birthweight infants and "failure to thrive" infants. The target audience for these materials is pregnant teens.

AMong the industrialized nations, the United States ranks 19th in infant mortality among the industrialized nations. Recently, Indianapolis, Indiana received national attention for having the worst black infant mortality rate of 22 major cities. A low birthweight infant is 40 times more likely to die within the first month of life than is the normal birthweight infant.

The "Have a Healthy Baby" program is part of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) which seeks to improve the nutritional well-being of limited-resource families through education.

This program is an educational package stressing the need for early prenatal care, daily nutritional choices, and the relationship between lifestyle choices (such as drinking, smoking, and drug abuse) on pregnancy outcome.

Objectives for the program are:

- Mothers-to-be demonstrate an increased awareness of knowledge nutrition, health and lifestyle choices.
- Mothers-to-be deliver a healthy baby whose birthweight is within the normal range.
- Babies live through the critical first 28 days.
- The number of days of infant hospitalization required decreases, thus reducing the costs to individuals and taxpayers.

The overall goal of the "Have a Healthy Baby" curriculum is to enable the mother-to-be to give birth to a HEALTHY BABY.

Mother-to-Be Instructor Handbook
Contents

- Preface
- Introduction
- "How to Use This Handbook" instructions

Introductory Lesson

- Lesson Plan
- Consent Form
- Project-data Form
- Sample Project-data Form
- Survey One
- Survey One answers
- Nasco Baby model
- "Low Birthweight Infants" pictures (optional)

Lesson One How Can I Have A Healthy Baby?

- Lesson Plan
- "You're A Teenager, You're Having A Baby and You Need Help" handout (March of Dimes)
- "Common Discomforts During Pregnancy" handout
- "Week One - How Can I Have A Healthy Baby" contract
- 11-12-week plastic fetus model
- "How A Baby Grows" poster (March of Dimes)
- "It's Up to Me" video

Lesson Two How Much Weight Should I Gain?

- Lesson Plan
- "Weight Gain During Pregnancy" handout
- "What Will I Weigh?" handout
- "Fetal Development and Weight Grid" handout
- "Food Choices During Pregnancy" handout
- "Week Two - How Much Weight Should I Gain?" contract
- "Low Birthweight Baby" graphic (optional)
- food models (National Dairy Council)
- deck of cards

Lesson Three What Should I Eat During Pregnancy?

- Lesson Plan
- "Glorious Foods" handout
- "Food Choices During Pregnancy" handout
- "Healthy Meals" worksheet
- "Fast Food Meals" activity sheet
- "Fast Foods" handout
- "Breast or Bottle: What is Best for My Baby and Me?" handout
- "Feeding Your Infant" handouts
- "Week Three - What Should I Eat During Pregnancy?" contract
- "Inside My Mom" video (March of Dimes)
- comparison cards (National Dairy Council)

Suggested Comparison Cards and Food Model List:

Skim milk
Ice Cream
Hamburger
Tossed Salad
Strawberries
Bran Muffin
Pita Bread
Whole milk
Fruit Yogurt
Peanut butter
Spinach
Orange juice
Whole-grain cereal
Liver
American cheese
Plain Yogurt
Hot dogs
Bananas
Black-eyed peas
Tortilla

Lesson Four What Effect Do My Habits Have On My Baby?

- Lesson Plan
- "Caffeine" handout
- "Double Trouble: Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco Abuse During Pregnancy" handout (march of Dimes)
- "Community Resources" handout
- "Tips to Help You Quit Smoking" handout
- "Babies and You - Drinking, Smoking and Drugs" video (March of Dimes)
- "Role Play" instructions
- Survey Two
- Survey Two answers
- Have A Healthy Baby Summary sheet
- Program Evaluation
- graduation certificates

Teen Curriculum

SURVEY ONE

Name ______________________________

Circle the answer you think is the best one.

1. When is it important to get prenatal care?
   a. by the 4th month
   b. by the 5th month
   c. as early as possible
   d. when you think you need it

2. The best advice to follow on what to eat while pregnant is?
   a. eat whatever you like
   b. eat for two
   c. eat a variety of foods
   d. eat what you crave

3. Foods from the milk group supply me with
   a. fiber
   b. iron
   c. calcium
   d. vitamin C

4. Small babies are:
   a. healthy babies
   b. babies at risk for problems
   c. easier to deliver and care for
   d. always okay, they're just small

5. I should try to gain about __________ pounds during my pregnancy.
   a. 10-15
   b. 15-20
   c. 20-25
   d. 25-35

6. The number of calories each day that I need to eat over my normal diet is
   a. 300 calories
   b. 500 calories
   c. 800 calories
   d. 1000 calories

7. During pregnancy I should gain weight:
   a. mostly in the last few months
   b. gradually all through my pregnancy
   c. mostly in the middle of my pregnancy

8. As long as I take my vitamin pill I don't need to worry about what I eat.
   a. True
   b. False

9. Smoking mothers have a greater chance of miscarriage or stillbirth.
   a. True
   b. False

10. Using alcohol and drugs in moderation is safe while I am pregnant.
    a. True
    b. False

Have A Healthy Baby • Part of the Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program
Purdue University

WHAT WILL I WEIGH?

Before I got pregnant I weighed about ____________ pounds.

+ 35 pounds

By the end of my pregnancy, I should weigh ____________ pounds.

This weight is what I can expect to weigh at delivery, though the actual amount will probably change.

If I gain over this amount before my due date,
I WILL NOT DIET.

FAST FOOD MEALS WORKSHEET

When I eat at a Fast Food Restaurant I normally order...

____

____

____

____

____

What's good about this meal?	What parts of this meal needs improvement?
______________________________	______________________________
______________________________	______________________________
______________________________	______________________________
______________________________	______________________________
______________________________	______________________________

Next time I can order...

____

____

____

____

____

April 1, 1991

How appropriate to be addressing this subject today. It was April 1, 1988 that I made my first food delivery and the South Whitley Area Emergency Food Bank was born.

Three years and 1,081 hungry people later, her case is still typical. Her husband of 20 years had left, taking the car and check book. She hadn't eaten for a week. Her two children had been fed at school, but it was two days into spring break, and she was desperate. Her food stamps were "pending" — something about a lost birth certificate. While she tried to prove she existed, three people were litterally starving.

Who else shall I tell you about? I have 1,081 similar stories about decent, hard-working people. People who have had heart attacks, cancer, fires, etc. Any situation that keeps a person from earning their regular pay-check can result in hunger and/or homelessness. Both insurance and government benifits (if any) are painfully slow. I have little old ladies cutting their heart pills in half so they can afford food for their invalid husbands. I have seen, right here in South Whitley, an unheated trailer with seven children huddled around a space heater wearing only diapers on a cold December morning.

I have seen a proud young father, who loved his beautiful wife and two-week old son, leave them so they could recieve welfare benefits during his unemployment. I have met a mother who hocked her wedding ring, but still couldn't afford a $90 bottle of medicine for her sick child. There are others, hard-working people with heart attacks or cancer who can't get food stamps because they have homes or cars. If they sell their homes, where are they to live? If they sell their cars, what are they going to drive to medical appointments or to look for work?

I have more questions than answers, but something is wrong with a Government that can defend and feed the world, but won't help it's own people in their time of need.

Susan Butcher
South Whitley Area Emergency Food Bank
404 W. Buffalo Street
South Whitley, In. 46787

Statement by Orvileen Moore

I would like to start out by thanking those responsible for allowing me the opportunity to speak out on a matter that I am deeply concerned about. Food problems are a big concern of mine for more than one reason, first of all I live in the rural county area - Kimmel, IN. of Noble County, the prosimity of food pantries and banks is a big concern; there are none in the areas. Personnally I have to have enough money for my cardio-vascular diet and high cholesterol. I have had two by-pass surgeries and in the last one my kidney was taken. Currently I receive $11.00 monthly in food stamps. I have to live on approximately $600.00 per month which includes Soc. Sec. and V.A. benefits. My V.A. was increased and because of that the $34.00 monthly food stamps decreased to $11.00. I have to be transported to the Ft. Wayne Hospital two to three times per month for Kimo-therapy, my medicaid spend down is $214.00 so I can't afford to receive medicaid assistance. My food needs are a problem because of my limited income and medical conditions. I can't afford to buy all the products that I need because of other expenses, pantry access is not good, the food stamps are not enough. It seems that every time I'm given one thing another advantage is taken away, the spend down is a problem as I stated earlier. My case worker at the Welfare Dept. has also shared her condern over my situation and has also voiced her opinion concerning the problem. Thanks to C.A.N.I. I have been able to keep my house heated through the winter and also they have provided me with juices and other dietetic items.

Mrs. Orvileen Moore
Box 66
Kimmel, IN

Statement by Larry Ritchie

I am a working husband and father of four children ranging in age from 12 to 1, my rate of pay is $7.62 per hour and I am a resident of Kendallville, IN. It is very hard for me and my family to maintain and keep up with shelter, utilities, and food costs. We are currently spending 70 to $100 weekly in food costs, and as a result our other bills suffer. I must pay $323 monthly mortgage, $35 weekly for transportation and keep my utilities on. I receive no other income; my wife is not employed. Last year I tried to apply for food stamps and was told that I was only eligible for $20.00 worth - one time assistance. Community Action of N.E. Indiana has assisted my family over the last 3 to 4 years, but it is very hard to keep up with everything when I only bring home $220 per week and there are six people to feed, clothe and keep shelter for. I represent the working poor and I feel that there should be more available in the rural areas as far as assistance is concerned especially food, most of the pantries in the rural areas are 15 to 20 miles away. I just feel that greater sensitivity should be given to the people that are living in the rural areas, we are just in a larger disadvantage than most urban areas when it comes to accessibility of available resources, especially as it pertains to food.

Larry & Julie Ritchie
2001 Bowie Ct.
Kendallville, IN 46755

POSITION PAPER FOR THE EXPANDED FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM

EFNEP is a federally funded program conducted through the CES in every state and U.S. territory. The mission of EFNEP is to assist limited resource families and youth to acquire knowledge, skills, attitudes and changed behavior necessary for nutritionally sound diets, to contribute to their personal development and the improvement of total family diet and nutritional welfare through education.

EFNEP in Indiana includes programming which is based on food and nutrition as the subject matter to reach three limited resource audiences:

1) Adult - Homemakers living in rural or urban areas who are responsible for planning and preparing the family's food with emphasis on households with young children;
2) Youth - 4-H age youth living in rural or urban areas; and
3) Pregnant adults and teens - through the "Have a Healthy Baby" program.

Professionals hire and train paraprofessionals who usually live in the areas in which they work. These paraprofessionals go into homes, schools, and community settings to teach groups and individuals. Volunteers are recruited to work with young people and adults. Referral of participants to other Extension programs and to community assistance programs (i.e. Food Stamps, W.I.C., etc.) is the responsibility of all professional and paraprofessionals.

Because of the nature of EFNEP, all disciplines of home economics, including Human Development and Family Resource Management, are incorporated as they relate to food and nutrition. EFNEP education includes the following areas:

*Nutrition knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to improve diets.

*Planning for daily food needs.

*Knowledge and practice in food selection and preparation.

*Knowledge of financial management relating to food budgets, adaptations for uneven incomes, and local food resources.

*Use & care of equipment used for food preparation, storage, & utilization.

*Food safety, health, and sanitation practices.

*Food practices that reinforce personal development of family members.

*Gardening and food production techniques.

*Food preservation practices.

*Maternal and infant nutrition education.

*Body weight, food intake, health and fitness.

*Referral to other resources and assistance programs.

EFNEP - The Difference is Education

1990
Allen County Home Economics Report
Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program
Camilla D. Shilling, Extension Agent

Program Objective: To help low-income families, especially those with young children, to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and changed behavior necessary to improve their diets in normal nutrition. EFNEP works with families on other federal assistance programs such as Food Stamps and WIC. In the youth program, EFNEP reaches children of program families and others of 4-H age.

The funding for this program comes entirely from federal funds administered by Purdue University. This includes salaries for professional staff, paraprofessionals and a secretary. Other expenses include fringe benefits, transportation, training costs and materials.

Program assistants receive three weeks of intensive training at the beginning of their employment. In-service training and supervision under the direction of this agent are done on a monthly basis.

Following are some program statistics for the adult phase of the program (9-30-90):

	FY1988	FY1989	FY1990
* Number of Aides	6	6	6
* Number of FTE's (Full time equiv.)	2.7	3	3.3
* Number of Families worked with	217	189	248
* Income of $438 or less/mo.	53%	30%	36%
* Income of $438-1038/mo.	42%	63%	57%
* Income of $1039-1338/mo.	4%	4%	4%
* Income of $1339 and over/mo.	1%	3%	3%
* Families using Food Stamps	68%	60%	60%
* Families participating in WIC	32%	38%	39%
* Homemakers served			
White	33%	20%	24%
Black	58%	78%	73%
Hispanic	8%	1%	1%
Other	1%	1%	2%

Program Notes:

** Program assistants in the adult program work 30 hours per week. Four program assistants worked the entire fiscal year; three worked 5 months.

** On September 30th, six PA's were working in the adult program.

** The EFNEP program had been in DeKalb County since February of 1988. The program was phased out in August. Therefore, this agent is now supervising EFNEP only in Allen county.

** During FY-90, two new PA's were hired and trained to work in Allen County; one has since resigned.

** A "Have a Healthy Baby" component was added to the EFNEP curriculum beginning in August. This series of 4 lessons can be taken alone or in combination with the entire lesson series.

EFNEP/4-H Youth Program & Program Notes:

** Three hundred thirty-six (336) different youngsters (222 of them new) were involved in weekly after-school and/or summer groups. These groups were led by one full-time PA. An additional person was hired to assist with summer programming. Purdue supports the summer program with additional monies.

Future Thrusts:

** Continue to monitor the program by following the state-wide verification plan.

** Hire and train new personnel as funding permits.

** Expand "Have a Health Baby" for pregnant program homemakers and fully implement "Have a Healthy Baby" for pregnant teens.

** Continue efforts to:

(1) Graduate program families after six months.

(2) Increase the number of low-income families served.

(3) Get program homemakers and youth involved in other Extension programs.

(4) Develop volunteer leaders from disadvantaged families to aid in both Adult and Youth Programs. (Note: Total number of volunteer hours reported for FY-90 in the Adult Program was 393.5 and 180 for the Youth Program. At $3.80 per hour, this amounts to more than $2177 of service.)

In the 21-plus years EFNEP has been in existence in Allen County, the program has undergone many changes. Uncertainty over continued funding arises almost yearly. Even so, the lives of our families are improved--according to their own report--by the education and support they receive from EFNEP. Improved nutrition affects both the physical well-being and the economic stability of individuals. Our program makes a difference, and that difference is education.

Wells County

Wells county in Northeastern Indiana has a population of 25, 948 and is comprised of 9 townships. The county seat, the largest town in the county, is Bluffton with 9,020 people. Wells county could be considered a typical rural Midwestern county with a large agricultural base and some industry. A sizeable portion of county residents work out of county, primarily in Allen county to the north. Many of the area factories produce parts for the auto industry. The unemployment rate for Wells county is currently 7%.

Wells County Department of Public Welfare

The Wells County Department of Public Welfare is one of 92 county welfare departments in Indiana. This department is an Indiana agency under the directions of the Indiana State Department of Public Welfare in Indianapolis.

The Wells County Department of Public Welfare has been established to provide welfare programs to the residents of Wells County. It is this department's responsibility to administer these programs professionally, efficiently, economically and equitably.

The services provided by this department consist of public assistance programs and child welfare services. The public assistance programs include: AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children), AFDC-UP (for unemployed parents), Food Stamps, Medicaid for Aged and Disabled, Medicaid for Pregnant Women and Young Children, Medical Assistance for Children with Special Health Care Needs, Hospital Care for the Indigent, Eye Treatment, Assistance for Residents in County Homes, and Refugee Resettlement Program.

Child Welfare services include investigation of child abuse and neglect providing social services to abused and neglected children and their families, foster homes and day care homes licensing, completion of adoptive and custody home studies.

To provide services for these cases, this department is comprised of a staff of 14. The funding for administrative and program costs is a combination of federal, state and county monies. The breakdown of program costs varies by program.

This department currently has a caseload of approximately 1,000 households comprised of the programs listed above. This caseload of 1000provides assistance or services to approximately 1,900 individuals.

Food Stamps

The Food Stamp Program is a federal program which is administered through each state. This County Department of Public Welfare has the responsibility for processing Food Stamp applications, certifying eligible applicants for participation, and issuing benefits. The Food Stamp program accounts for 290 households at this time.

Wells County

Food Stamp Issuance Month of January		Households
1989	$22,024	172
1990	$35,714	230
1991	$47,700	287

The percentage of increase for Food Stamp issuance from 1990 to January 1991 was 33.51%. The statewide increase during the same time frame was 26.50%.

Based upon a review of the households, the following is a breakdown of the type of income received by current Food Stamp recipients in Wells county:

43%	Employment
23%	Social Security (Elderly or Disabled)
15%	No income or Township Trustee assistance
10%	AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) or child support
9%	Unemployment benefits
100%	

Fully 52% of current Wells county Food Stamp households are working or were recently working as shown by the receipt of unemployment benefits. This statistic illustrates the major concerns of unemployment, underemployment and full-time wages too low to support a family. In this and surrounding counties, higher paying industry jobs are being replaced by lower paying and minimum wage service jobs.

Barriers to Accessing Food Assistance in Wells County

1) Lack of public transportation.

2) Distance to grocery and assistance offices.
Those living in southwest Wells county have to travel 28 miles one way to the welfare department.

3) Food Costs.
Food costs are frequently higher in rural areas than in larger cities such as Fort Wayne or Indianapolis.

4) Case processing time to determine eligibility.
Unless the household qualifies for expedited Food Stamps, due to high caseload ratio per eligibility worker and verification requirements, the household frequently does not receive benefits for up to 30 days.

5) Food Stamp benefits do not last the whole month.
This is due to a variety of reasons such as loss of employment at the end of one month which is not reflected in the next month is benefit level.

6) Difficulty in obtaining reliable private transportation.

FEDERAL FOOD STAMP PROGRAM CHANGES
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 1990

THE CHANGES BELOW MAY INCREASE YOUR FOOD STAMPS EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 1990

STANDARD DEDUCTION

THE NEW AMOUNT IS $116.

MAXIMUM EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTION

THE NEW AMOUNT IS $186.

MAXIMUM CHILD CARE DEDUCTION $160 Per Child

MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF FOOD STAMPS YOU MAY RECEIVE WITH LITTLE OR NO INCOME AND MAXIMUM LIMITS TO RECEIVE FOOD STAMPS;

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MAXIMUM GROSS MONTHLY INCOME (130% OF POVERTY LEVEL),	MAXIMUM NET MONTHLY INCOME (100% OF POVERTY LEVEL).	MAXIMUM ALLOTMENT
1	$ 681	$ 524	$105
2	913	702	193
3	1144	880	277
4	1376	1059	352
5	1608	1237	418
6	1840	1415	502
7	2072	1594	555
8	2304	1772	634
9	2536	1951	713
10	2768	2130	792
EACH ADDITIONAL MEMBER	+232	+179	+79

EFFECTIVE 10/90

WELLS COUNTY TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL ELIGBILITY STANDARDS FOR ASSISTANCE

Applicants who have not received the total current or projected gross monthly income listed in the standards below and who are otherwise eligible will be considered for assistance.

PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD	GROSS INCOME PER MONTH
1	$ 281.00
2	325.00
3	367.00
4	402.00
5	445.00
6	474.00
7	515.00
8	555.00
9	610.00
10	665.00

Each additional person · add $55.00

Special emergencies, extraordinary expenses or other unusual conditions, instead of the above minimum standards in order to make otherwise ineligible persons eligible for special assistance.

Floyd Meyer

PRESIDENT

Marilyn K [illegible]

SECRETARY

2-12-91